



MOVE TO GET RID OF EYESORE

Report by Richard Guttridge

DUDLEY'S regeneration boss has said he is hopeful an eyesore office block overlooking the town centre will be bulldozed 'as soon as possible'.

Cavendish House has stood empty for years and an ambitious plan is in the pipeline to knock it down and replace it with homes and shops.

But more than a year after the plans were revealed it appears the demolition of Cavendish House could be a way off, with funding still needing to be secured.

Twenty-five firefighters tackled a blaze at the empty building on Trindle Road in the town centre on Saturday night.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said that crews from Dudley, Tipton, Brierley Hill and Bilston were mobilised to the incident in 39 seconds and quickly got the blaze under control.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said officers were at the scene to assist with traffic and there was no evidence to suggest it was an arson attack.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at Dudley Council, said a meeting was planned with the owners of the multi-storey building, which overlooks Duncan Edwards Way heading into Dudley, with a view to moving the plans forward to revamp the prominent site.

Various schemes involving Cavendish House have been put forward over the years without coming to fruition and there has long been frustration about the eyesore building remaining disused.

Homes

When the building is finally knocked down it is hoped the area will be redeveloped creating homes, restaurants and shops, under plans put forward by property developer Avenbury Dudley.

The company bought the site for £800,000 at a property auction in London in 2015.

Councillor Ahmed said he was desperate to get this scheme moving.

He said: "We are supporting and helping them to make an application to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership to get funding for the demolition of the building. We are actively supporting them to try and get the plans through."

"It's the gateway to Dudley and has been sitting there idle for far too long. We want to see it redeveloped as soon as possible."

"We need a lot more homes."

TAKE A BOW, CHLOE GIVES CHARITY A HEAD START



Chloe Evans 19, right, with friend Lauren Millard. She has been raising money for a cancer charity in memory of her father by making bows

A DIAMANTÉ-STUDDÉ fundraising initiative has raised more than £1,000 for Bowel Cancer UK.

Chloe Evans, aged 19, from Sedgley, started making hair bows after her father, Wayne, died from the illness when she was 15.

Chloe now wants to hold a 'wear a bow day' on May 18, the day that her father passed away.

She said: "I always wear bows in my hair and someone suggested I start making them for charity. I only started in October and have raised more than £1,000 already."

"People from all over the UK have got in touch, including dance schools and even someone in America."

"My mum is great and helps a lot. I have been sponsored by Rhinestone HQ, which supplies us with stones I use in the bows and I send them out to people who donate to the charity via the JustGiving link."

Dozens of bows are displayed on Chloe's Facebook page and can be made to order in different sizes, colours and designs. The bows can be styled for hair or even used as bow ties.

Chloe, who is currently studying dance at

Kidderminster College, added: "People can donate via the text code CBOW50 followed by the amount they would like to donate or via the page. They can then upload a 'selfie' to Facebook to raise awareness."

"The support that I have received has been amazing. My friends and everyone at college have been right behind me too. I hope to raise awareness of bowel cancer in young people as well because it is often misdiagnosed due to patients being seen as too young to have it."

To donate to Chloe's page visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CHLOESBOWS

STABBINGS

Murder accused is back in court

A PROVISIONAL trial date has been set for a man accused of murdering a mother and her son at their Stourbridge home.

Aaron Barley is charged with the murder of Tracey Wilkinson, 50, and 13-year-old Pierce Wilkinson and is to face trial on October 3, although the 23-year-old has not yet entered a plea. Mother and son were killed at their home in Greyhound Lane, Norton, Barley, who was remanded in custody at Birmingham Crown Court on Monday, is also charged with the attempted murder of father Peter Wilkinson.

● Daughter's sad return – Page 3

HIPPODROME

Campaigners need £4,500 for solicitor

CAMPAIGNERS striving to restore Dudley Hippodrome have hit an obstacle as they need to raise £4,500 for a solicitor.

Until the money has been found, they will be unable to submit legal plans to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and start work on refurbishing the iconic building, which they saved from demolition.

The delay was revealed to the public during a meeting of The Black Country Hippodrome Ltd on Sunday.

FOOTBALL

Hospice wins at big charity match

THOUSANDS turned out for a charity football match that raised more than £20,000 for Mary Stevens Hospice.

A team of ex-West Bromwich Albion pros, led by former captain Darren 'Big Dave' Moore, beat a Stourbridge Legends XI at the War Memorial Athletic Ground, Amblecote, on Sunday.

A mascot race, won by Baggie Bird, preceded the game. Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif lent his support to the event, co-founded by Matt Webb, in memory of his late mother Jane. Matt said: "I can't tell everyone how grateful I am."

● See pictures – Page 43

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GRAND DAY OUT WITH DOREEN



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Nothing suspicious about fatal fire



A police officer at the scene of the fire

A FATAL house fire in Cradley Heath is not being treated as suspicious, police have confirmed.

A woman in her 50s – named locally only as Joanne – was found dead at the flat in New Pool Road on March 29.

Emergency services attended the scene just after 9.30am but nothing could be done to save the woman, who lived alone at the flat.

ON Monday a West Midlands Police spokesman said the fire is being treated as ‘non-suspicious’.

The victim is believed to have

been discovered by a relative who then called emergency services to the scene.

A burned-out mattress was on the front lawn of the property as fire investigators combed the flat.

A cat was found hiding in the kitchen and is now in the care of the RSPCA.

Neighbours spoke of their shock at what had happened and described Joanne as being quiet but well-liked in the area.

Sheila Smith, aged 74, who has lived in the flat above her for around

five years, said: “I was about to go out to the doctor’s when her brother knocked the door and said she that was dead.

“It’s such a shame, I knew her and she used to walk my dog for me.

“I only saw her on Saturday in town. She was nice.”

Neighbour Edna Slater, 74, broke down in tears as she laid flowers on the lawn in front of the property yesterday.

She said: “She was a lovely. She was very quiet and never bothered anybody. She loved cats.”

Hate campaign ‘classic case of domestic abuse’

POLICE have labelled the actions of a businessman who waged a hate campaign against his ex-partner as ‘a classic case of domestic abuse’.

Robert McNaughton was jailed for five years for waging the campaign – which culminated in a petrol bomb being thrown at her car.

He had denied being behind fake Facebook accounts, which were set up to troll hairdresser Sharon McCann during a six-month harassment campaign.

However, police charged 51-year-old McNaughton, of Tenter Drive, Halesowen, with conspiracy to commit arson and harassment and he was found guilty after a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court. On Friday he was jailed for five years.

Sergeant Chris Jones said: “McNaughton was a successful local businessman who could not handle being rejected and became hell bent on destroying his ex-partners life.

“She was in total fear and we knew that we needed to stop the person responsible.

Control

“This was a classic case of domestic abuse, he wanted to control his ex and used fear to do that.

“Domestic abuse comes in many forms and if you are suffering physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse, or are being threatened or intimidated in your home by a current or previous partner or adult family member, you are a victim of domestic abuse.

“You may be feeling frightened, isolated, ashamed and confused. Remember you are not to blame for what is happening. You are not alone, and above all you do not have to suffer in silence. Help is available.

“We are pleased that the jury saw through his lies and that he has now been sent to jail. We hope that this offers some comfort to the victim and we commend her bravery for coming



Robert McNaughton – jailed for five years

forward in what has been a long and successful investigation.”

The court heard that McNaughton’s ex-partner had rejected his attempts at a reconciliation but he was unable to accept this and launched a systematic hate campaign.

Not long after they parted McNaughton had been jailed for six months for contempt of court for ignoring an order to move a huge pile of rubbish at the RDF site at Moor Street, Brierley Hill, which he was responsible for as a company boss.

During December 2014 and Febru-

ary 2015 he bombarded Miss McCann with abusive Facebook messages, threatening to release intimate images. The court heard that it had driven her to consider suicide.

Attacks

But he was not content with simply terrorising her via social media. He hired two men, Matthew Barker and Joden Smith, to carry out attacks on her home in Hopwood Close, Halesowen, culminating in February 2015 when her car was set on fire.



Sharon McCann – has moved abroad

Prior to the start of McNaughton’s trial, Matthew Barker, aged 42 from Leicester, pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to commit criminal damage, while 20-year-old Joden Smith, also from Leicester, admitted the conspiracy to commit criminal damage and arson, recklessly endangering life.

Barker was jailed for 43 months and Smith was sent to a young offenders’ institute for four years.

The court heard that Miss McCann has since sold her Halesowen home and moved abroad.

Shoplifter who defied ban gets 18 months jail

A PROLIFIC thief, who defied a court ban to go on a shoplifting spree in Dudley town centre, has been locked up for 18 months.

Gavin Garratt struck nine times in two months at Dudley stores from which he had been outlawed, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 29-year-old took food, cosmetics and even pens to fund his drug habit with the largest single haul being valued at £173, explained Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting.

The one-man crime wave started on January 5 and continued until his arrest on March 1. It involved shops in and around Dudley High Street with most of the offences captured on CCTV.

“He is the subject of a Criminal Anti Social Behaviour Order (Crasbo) preventing him visiting these shops but keeps going into them,” said the prosecutor.

Mr Glenn Cook, defending, said: “He is a drug addict who has been using Class A drugs for the past four years, during which time his offending has accelerated. This was a two-month crime spree.”

Garratt from Jarvis Close, Brierley Hill, who had previous convictions for theft, pleaded guilty to nine thefts and nine breaches of the order.

He was locked up for a total of 18 months by Recorder Anthony Warner, who told him: “You have committed this type of offence many times before. Drugs cannot be regarded as an excuse for committing crime. In fact, it can be regarded as an aggravating feature.”

Appeal for action over ‘boy racers’

CALLS have been made for action on ‘boy racers’ causing a nuisance in an area of Halesowen.

Long Lane at Shell Corner has been labelled a ‘racetrack’ by councillors.

Car racers are believed to be driving up and down the road at speed late at night.

Residents have flagged the issue to police and taken to Facebook to express their concern.

Councillor Hilary Bills, who represents Halesowen North ward, said: “It comes and goes in our area but over the last week or so it has started up again. About 18 months ago we had a similar problem then and the police were great in sorting it out. We hope that they will be able to do the same this time.”

Apartments plan on pub outhouse site

HOMES are set to be built next to a former pub in Cradley – on the site of a former outhouse.

An application has been lodged with Dudley Council to convert the site at the Chainmaker on Colley Lane into three apartments.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Council leading Big Switch move

DUDLEY Council is urging people to sign up to its latest Big Switch collective energy scheme, which is designed to save borough residents money.

The scheme promises residents market leading deals on energy prices not available elsewhere, through collective purchasing power.

In previous auctions more than 6,000 people across Dudley have registered to switch for savings.

To find out more call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch website.

Churches uniting to seek new home

TWO churches in Dudley borough have united under one banner and church bosses are now looking for a new home.

Hanbury Hill Baptist Church and Halesowen Baptist Church have decided to solidify their relationship of many years. The 139-year-old Halesowen Baptist Church sold their building almost two years ago. The decision was made for Halesowen, who were left with eight members, to join 187-year-old Hanbury Hill Baptist's worship. They are coming together under the name Hope Baptist Church.

Society's match boosts charity

A BUILDING society from the Black Country held its inaugural charity five-a-side tournament in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust.

More than 70 players pulled on their football boots for the West Brom's Charity Cup at Goals Dudley, on Cakemore Road in Rowley Regis.

The tournament and a raffle for prizes including signed West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa shirts raised more than £1,200 for the society's nominated charity.

Supermarket's bags of help for local causes

COMMUNITY projects in the Black Country could receive a cash injection thanks to Tesco's Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco have teamed up with Groundwork to launch the monthly roll-out of its funding scheme, which could see grants of up to £4,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to community projects in Dudley and Cradley Heath.

Ask in store for more information or visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp/

Work at bus station

TEMPORARY bus stops will be in place from Tuesday as resurfacing work is carried out at Cradley Heath bus station.

Passengers will face disruption when work gets under way at the bus station on Forge Lane. The work is expected to continue until April 22.

Lord Cobham buys golf club near his stately home

A NEW era for one of the area's top golfing venue is swinging into action after its sale to a Midlands peer.

Hagley Golf and Country Club has been bought by Lord Cobham, the owner of nearby Hagley Hall.

The club, on the outskirts of Stourbridge, had been on sale for six months and a deal was done last week which will see Lord Cobham take the reins from the Garratt family, who have owned it since its inception in 1980.

It was put up for sale by the family following the death of the club's principal shareholder Michael Garratt last year.

The club was marketed for £2.25 million and managing director Peter Garratt Johnson said the club has 'got its asking price' in what was 'quite a complex deal'.

He said he believes the new ownership will mean 'business as usual' for patrons and staff.

Mr Garratt Johnson said: "This has been in process for six months. Lord Cobham is behind it and it's going to be very much business as usual – we're pretty pleased with how everything has gone. That is why the Garratt family is selling to him."

"He is going to very much keep it as it is with the same membership and business model. He spoke at the AGM and all the members were pretty pleased with what he said. He's local and very much cares for Hagley. I've run it for 17 years and I'm going to go back to Australia now."

Doctor denying sexual assaults

A DOCTOR has denied sexually assaulting five patients while working at a surgery in Dudley during January of last year.

Dr Amirul Haque is alleged to have committed the offences at the practice between January 14 and January 22, 2016.

The 32-year-old, from Ladypool Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, pleaded not guilty to all five charges when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last Wednesday.

He was remanded on bail after a start date for his trial at the same court was provisionally set for February 8 next year.

The charges relate to five counts of sexual assault committed against separate patients.

Curry and laughs at comedy night

THE Kum-n-avaloff monthly comedy night will take place at Stourbridge Town Hall tonight (Thursday) from 8pm. Tickets cost £8. Curry and rice will be served during the interval, included in the ticket price.

Pressure mounts to save leisure centres

DUDLEY Council is under pressure to scrap plans to close its three leisure centres with some councillors saying they will not support the move.

The authority wants to shut leisure centres in Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen and replace them with two newly-built facilities in Dudley and Lye.

Almost 5,000 people are backing a petition against the proposal, which bosses say will save money.

The plan has led to concerns about a reduction in leisure facilities and people in parts of the borough facing travelling greater distances, particularly as the new centres would probably be in Dudley town centre and Lye.

Councillors are due to discuss the proposals next week in the face of a backlash from residents who want the three leisure centres to stay open.

The controlling Labour group may have to rely on some Conservative councillors to support the plan if they want to get it approved, after UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said he would not support it. Labour does not command a majority at the council house.

Refurbishing

Council bosses insist the plan is more cost effective than refurbishing its existing sites, Dudley Leisure Centre, Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge and Halesowen Leisure Centre. They also say the new centres would offer better, modern facilities.

But it would mean one of the borough's towns being left without a leisure centre.

Councillor Brothwood said: "This is a red line for us. We must have at least three leisure centres given the size of our population."

"We have seen the shocking statistics in how many unhealthy people we have in the borough and people need to have access to leisure centres. We are all for modernising but not at the expense of closing leisure centres."

Tracy Wood, a former councillor who is leading the campaign against closure said the council should listen to the hundreds opposed to closing the centres. She added: "These centres are vital in our communities – especially Halesowen and Stourbridge."

Daughter's floral tribute to mother and brother

A HEARTBROKEN daughter made an emotional return to her Stourbridge home to lay flowers in memory of her mother and younger brother, who were stabbed to death in an horrific incident last week.

Student Lydia Wilkinson, aged 18, fought back the tears as she laid a pot of flowers outside her family home in Greyhound Lane, Norton, on Sunday.

Her message said: "You are incredible. We love you more than words can ever describe and are so proud of you. I hope there's a Chanel store up there for you mom."

She took her time to read the dozens of messages left by well-wishers outside the house.

Just days before, while Lydia was studying at the University of Bristol, her mother, brother and father were attacked at their home.

All three suffered serious stab wounds. Her mother Tracey, aged 50, was pronounced dead at the scene while Pierce, her 13-year-old brother, a West Bromwich Albion fan, died later in hospital.

Caring

Lydia's father, 47-year-old Peter Wilkinson, a managing director at Asset International in Bilston, was seriously injured with stab wounds to his back and chest. He is in a stable condition in hospital and has been visited by his daughter.

She was too upset to speak to the Press during the visit arranged through West Midlands Police, but issued a statement paying tribute to her mother and her brother.

She said: "Our family is devastated at the loss of Tracey and Pierce. They were extremely loved by all of their family and friends."

"Pierce was a fun-loving, friendly and happy boy, who loved computer games and made everyone smile. Tracey was loving, caring and a wonderful mother and daughter, always putting others before herself."

Lydia was comforted by her boyfriend Will Thompson and his family, who also laid flowers at the scene, next to the scores of tributes left by devastated friends and neighbours.

Aaron Barley, 23, has been charged with murder and attempted murder. It had been previously reported that Barley, of no fixed address, had been taken in by the Wilkinson family. Lydia strenuously denied this. She said: "The family did not provide refuge for homeless people and the suspect had never lived at the family home, but had been assisted by the family in the past 12 months."



Brave Lydia brings flowers to her family home where her brother and mother were fatally injured



Lydia with brother Pierce and father Peter



Suspect Aaron Bailey, picture from Facebook

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Tourism sector being hit hard

IT'S tough going in the tourism and hospitality business in the West Midlands at the moment, according to a new report. Rising inflation hitting household spending and risks over Brexit are thought to be behind the uncertain outlook.

Latest figures suggest one in three operators in the local tourism industry has an above average risk of insolvency – the highest figure for any UK region. The statistics form part of insolvency and restructuring body R3's monthly sector tracking report.

However, the construction sector is among the most stable in the UK.

Region's brews part of range

A PAIR of Black Country breweries are among local suppliers who will have their products sold at Midlands Co-operative food shops in the West Midlands. The retailer operates 43 shops in the region and is to offer more than 70 new products from 25 drinks producers.

The local beers, ciders and ales include drinks produced in the Midlands, with bottled beers from Sadler's Ales in Lye and Holden's Brewery at Woodsetton. Bewdley Brewery in Worcestershire is also featured in the Best of Our Counties range.

Declutter call to help charity

NEARLY a third of people in the West Midlands feel guilty about the amount of money spent on shopping trips, according to the British Heart Foundation in its Spring Clear Out campaign.

In a survey of more than 2,000 UK adults, secrets across the area were revealed, with men and women hanging onto an average of six items each that no longer fit. The BHF have released the statistics to encourage everyone to declutter and donate unwanted items to their local BHF shop.

Crews fired up for learning at college

FIREFIGHTERS have gone back to school to brush up their knowledge of the health and social care in order to help vulnerable people.

A total of 17 staff from fire stations in Wolverhampton, Fallings Park and West Bromwich have learnt about infection control, mental health conditions, safeguarding, and equality and diversity so they can respond to certain non-emergency calls.

They have been taught by tutors from City of Wolverhampton College.

Mothers' messages

MORE than a thousand people descended on Drayton Manor Park to mark Mother's Day and achieve a Guinness world record in the process.

A total of 1,139 people wrote heartfelt 'messages to mum', on a giant cork board, breaking the record for the most contributions to a bulletin board.

Potholes: How you stand legally if you need to go for compensation

COUNCILS across the Black Country and Staffordshire are paying out tens of thousands of pounds in compensation as motorists pay the price for the region's potholed roads.

Andy Shaw, partner in the Personal Injury team at Higgs & Sons, sets out the legal position for motorists.

Under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 the authority has a duty to maintain the highway. In considering whether the Highways Authority has breached its duty, the courts will consider

a) The character of the highway, and the traffic which would reasonably be expected to use it

b) The standard of maintenance appropriate, taking into consideration the type of traffic which might use it

c) The state of repair in which a reasonable person would expect to find the highway

d) Whether the highway authority knew or could reasonably have known that the condition of the part of the highway was dangerous

To succeed in a claim for damages for repairs costs or personal injury, a person must prove the highway was in such a condition that it was dangerous to traffic or pedestrians, that the condition was created by the failure to maintain the highway and the injury or damage resulted from such a failure. Whether a pothole is dangerous is open to judicial interpretation. The court will consider the size of the defect and where it was located.

If the claimant is able to prove that the pothole was dangerous, the burden falls on the defendant

to prove that they have a defence under Section 58 Highways Act 1980.

If the local authority can prove that they had a reasonable system of inspection and maintenance, they will establish a defence and any claim for damage or personal injury will fail.

Claims for damage are not straightforward and can be difficult to win, particularly if the Local Authority have an adequate inspection and maintenance policy. The burden is on the person making the claim to prove their case.

Anyone wishing to take action should get evidence – photographs ideally taken with a ruler showing the size and nature of the pothole are essential. Report the pothole. A failure by the local authority to repair the defect promptly may help your case.

Hole lot of problems



Village problems – Mark Keegan sent pictures of potholes in Station Road, Common Road and Giggety Lane, just some of the many in Wombourne



Andrew Duff took this picture of Wergs Hall Road in Wolverhampton



Twitter picture of pothole in Carlisle Road from @SteveCannock



D J Baker took this picture in Buchanan Avenue, Walsall



Nick Hodgkinson has nominated the A491 through Kingswinford

WITH increasing anger over the state of our roads and councils spending tens of thousands in compensation to drivers, we asked readers to highlight some of the worst potholes in our region.

And we have been overwhelmed by the response with some shocking pictures arriving of small craters in our road network.

A damning report last week revealed that some £1.25 billion is needed to get roads in the West Midlands back into a reasonable condition with one in six needing to be repaired or even facing closure within the next five years. The Annual Local Author-



ity Road Maintenance survey blamed an ageing network, decades of underfunding, increased traffic and wetter winters for the problems.

The Chronicle also revealed last week that some £270,000 has been paid out in compensation to drivers over the last four years by Staffordshire County Council alone.

Given the reports we have received from readers across the whole of Staffordshire and the Black Country, our crumbling roads are peppered

with potholes. Nick Hodgkinson sent pictures from a stretch of the A491 which he said was badly damaged 'along its whole length between the Wall Heath island through Kingswinford, where it is particularly bad, then out into Wordsley and Amblecote.'

Mark Keegan highlighted potholes in Station Road, Common Road and Giggety Lane in Wombourne. He said: "The ones with the drains are quite dangerous for cyclists."

Andrew Duffy sent in a picture of a wide pothole in Wergs Hall Road in Wolverhampton and even dropped a newspaper in to illustrate the size.

Another crater was sent to us on Twitter showing a pothole in Carlisle Road on the Longford Estate in Cannock. While reader Tracy Taylor

flagged up problems in Broad Lane, Bloxwich.

Neil Sheldon, of Halesowen, contacted us to say: "In my job as a Trainer Assessor I now travel all over the West Midlands and I can testify that I have never seen the road network in such a bad condition."

The Chronicle wants to identify the top 10 pothole blackspots in the region to flag up to our councils and we need your help. If you know of any pothole-ridden routes or deep holes please let us know. You can email details of the road, preferably with a picture, your name and any comments you would like to make to Sue. Attwater@expressandstar.co.uk

Or drop us a line at Editorial, The Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Teen thug stabbed his pregnant girlfriend

A TEENAGER who stabbed his pregnant girlfriend up to nine times in a frenzied attack has been sentenced to four years' detention.

The 17-year-old knifed the girl repeatedly in Dudley after punching her twice in the face. The victim staggered down two flights of stairs to try to find help, leaving a large trail of blood. She thought she was going to die, a judge was told.

She went on to lose her baby, though the court was told there was no medical evidence linking that to the stabbing – but Judge Michael Challinor said such a severe attack would not have helped.

The boy, who cannot be named because of his age, was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday after admitting causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

The stabbing was the culmination of a violent on-off relationship, in which the girl had previously been punched and kicked by the youth.

The victim suffered stab wounds to her chest, abdomen and arm and spent four days in hospital.

Mr John Evans, defending: "What he did was undoubtedly a product of an horrific childhood in care which left him craving affection."

Judge Challinor said the boy, who had moved around the care system since the age of five, needed to be 'confined for a period of time' to mature. He said: "The injuries were so serious her life was in danger. This attack will undoubtedly continue to echo through for the rest of her life."

Starter homes get green light

DUDLEY Council has been given the green light to build 79 starter homes on the former sites of community centres and a care home.

The homes, to be built on the former sites of the Mere Centre in Stourbridge, Turner House at Wrens Nest, Dudley, and St Thomas Network in Dudley, and Amblecote House care home, will be aimed at first-time buyers to help them get on the property ladder.

The authority was granted £625,000 in funding under the Government's Starter Homes scheme which will see the land regenerated. The buildings have already been demolished.

It is hoped work on the homes will begin by the end of the year after the plan was approved by council planning officers.

Off-road motorbikers are warned by police

EIGHT people have been issued warnings for riding off-road motorbikes in the Stourton area, near Stourbridge. The riders were warned over 'riding in an anti-social manner'. Kinver Police tweeted: "If they are caught doing so again their bikes will be seized."

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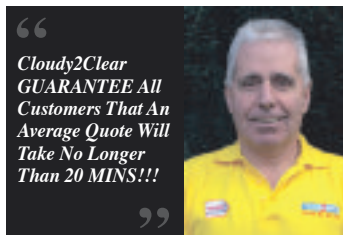
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Road scheme is nearly complete

A £1.5 million scheme to improve a busy junction between Wolverhampton and Dudley is nearing completion. Roadworks have been ongoing at the junction between Birmingham New Road and Shaw Road since August last year.

Since January this has involved a complete closure of Shaw Road and Birmingham New Road being reduced to one lane in both directions.

Shaw Road has now reopened but off-peak lane closures will remain on Birmingham New Road until around Easter.

Historic costumes on display at hall

A NEW exhibition at Himley Hall is a showcase for outfits used in historical re-enactments all over the country.

Costume & Kit: A Step back in Time featuring historic costumes and equipment has been loaned to the Dudley Council venue by members of the Harvington Household, who are based at Harvington Hall, near Kidderminster.

They cover a wide number of historical periods, from Saxon times to the Second World War.

The exhibition will run at Himley Hall until June 25. For opening times see www.dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall

Roll up! Circus big top is on the way

JOHN Lawson's Circus is to pitch its big top at Webbs garden centre in West Hagley, near Stourbridge, from Saturday to Thursday, April 8 to 12.

The show will feature acrobats, jugglers, rollerskaters and Bippo the Clown. Ringmaster Attila Endresz will welcome visitors to the hour-long family show, which is a traditional circus but with no animal acts. Shows at 10.30am, 1pm or 3pm and tickets costs £6. Visit webbsdirec.co.uk/circus for more details.

Praise as young poets are published online

THE literary works of pupils at a Stourbridge primary school, inspired by the plight of refugees, are receiving praise after being published online.

We All Sleep Under The Stars is a book of illustrated poems created by Year 6 pupils at Greenfield Primary School. Around 40 children, aged 10 and 11, put pen to paper as part of the special initiative organised by the Letterpress Project, a not-for-profit organisation.

Go to www.letterpressproject.co.uk

Cheers! Chain buy pub

A GROWING Black Country pub chain has added another pub to its books in Stourbridge.

Black Country Ales, the Pensnett-based micro-brewery and real ale pub company, has agreed terms to purchase The Queen's Head in Enville Street.

Bosses told to shell out after snail row

SNAILS are at the centre of a bizarre row between shopping centre bosses and Dudley Council.

Owners of the Trident Centre in Dudley town centre have been accused of using snail farming to avoid paying business rates on one of its units.

Some firms are eligible for tax exemptions if buildings are being used for agricultural purposes.

After investigating, local authority chiefs were not happy where the trail led them and took owners of the High Street complex, Atlantis Holdings, to court.

Magistrates ruled in favour of the authority but Atlantis deny any wrongdoing.

John Sykes, chairman of Atlantis, said a tenant was using part of the sixth floor of the centre to

breed snails and the firm would be fighting the ruling. He insisted that Atlantis had shelled out tens of thousands of pounds in business rates and would never try to avoid paying tax owed.

He said: "We have never tried to and never would avoid business rates. This is an ongoing legal matter and another example of the council trying to muddy the water. It is a travesty."

The total amount currently owed to the council in relation to the unit is £11,496.83. This is made up of unpaid business rates and court costs and relates to a period between June 2015 and March this year.

The council's chief executive Sarah Norman said: "Atlantis Holdings were seeking to avoid payment of business rates on a building owned by them, by

representing to the council that a tenant company was in occupation.

"That tenant company was allegedly breeding snails in the building. This was not accepted by the council and in a court case against Atlantis before Dudley Magistrates in February 2017, a liability order was granted in the council's favour."

"Since then we have expressed our willingness to work with Atlantis and its regeneration proposals. However, Dudley Council has a duty to collect business rates from local businesses."

It comes after Trident Centre bosses revealed they were pulling the plug on proposed redevelopment of the centre over what they called a lack of dialogue with the council.

Well, that's a fine film to get yourself into!

PEOPLE in the Black Country have an opportunity to star in a movie about vintage comedy double act Laurel and Hardy, alongside modern day stars Steve Coogan and John C Reilly.

The feature film focusing on the iconic two-some's final tour, which brought the comedy legends to the Black Country, is to be partly shot in Dudley.

Alan Partridge star Coogan will play Lancashire-born Stan Laurel and American actor Reilly, who starred in Chicago and more recently in Kong: Skull Island, will appear as Oliver Hardy in Stan and Ollie, which is being made by the BBC.

Details of the filming in Dudley are being kept under wraps but it is possible the decision to come to the town could be linked to the famous Hippodrome theatre, where the duo appeared in 1947 and again in 1952 - staying across the road at the Station Hotel.

The theatre on Castle Hill, which was later turned into a bingo hall then left unused, is currently the subject of a fundraising campaign to refurbish and reopen it as a venue again - to be called the Black Country Hippodrome - after being saved from demolition.

Stan and Ollie has been written by Jeff Pope, who worked with Coogan on the Oscar-nominated Philomena, and chronicles the duo's final British tour, during which Hardy suffered a heart attack.

Laurel and Hardy burst onto the Hollywood scene in the 1920s, appearing in more than 100 films together, becoming screen icons known and loved across the world. They performed together for more than 30 years.

Stage

Filming will also take place in Birmingham, where the duo also appeared on stage, and in Bristol.

An advert posted on castingcoollective.co.uk said: "Men and women of all ages for filming in Birmingham and Dudley for a major feature film about Laurel and Hardy set in the 1950s. You must be over 16, legally allowed to work in the UK with National Insurance number. Good rates of pay."

The comedy duo appeared in the pages of the Express & Star following their appearance at Dudley Hippodrome in 1947, in which they were said to have 'rocked the packed house'.

Meanwhile, Steve Coogan is about to be reunited with fellow comic Rob Bryden for the latest series of their award-winning comedy/travel series The Trip. Being shown on Sky Atlantic, it will see the pair eat and bicker their way across Spain.



Vintage comedy heroes Laurel and Hardy came to Dudley Hippodrome in the latter years of their career



Steve Coogan, TV's Alan Partridge, to play Stan Laurel



Landmark being renamed Black Country Hippodrome

Nearly 100 homes are proposed for industry site

PART of a disused industrial estate in Stourbridge is set to make way for nearly 100 homes.

Apartments would be created on former Jubilee Works and the William Foxall site in a bid to 'upgrade the area'.

The site in Balds Lane, Lye, could see up to 51 houses and 39 apartments developed with parking. It comes as businesses on the site are to relocate, leaving the three-acre plot empty.

There is proposed to be 22 semi-detached and 29 terraced houses alongside 39 apartments in three separate three-storey buildings.

Planning documents, put forward by RDI Developments, say: "The scheme applies the principles of good urban design and would make a positive contribution to character and appearance of the area, with no unacceptable adverse impact on residential amenity."

"Each of the proposed dwellings is served by a private garden. It would provide a high quality residential development upgrading the area... that will benefit the community from a social and economic standpoint."

However, Councillor Richard Body, who represents Cradley and Wollescote ward, said that traffic problems would need to be assessed before the plans were approved.

Traffic-based objections were put forward by residents and nearby businesses, describing Balds Lane as 'a rat run' where speeding took place.

A decision will be made by planning bosses in the coming weeks.

First business in enterprise zone

THE first business has signed up to join a new multi-million enterprise zone in Brierley Hill.

Insurance Protector Group has agreed to become part of the DY5 zone, the first arrival since the enterprise zone at The Waterfront was given the go-ahead by Government.

The business and enterprise zone is expected to bring 7,000 jobs and it is hoped many other businesses will follow and take advantage of tax breaks that the zone offers.

Alan Lunt, strategic director for regeneration at Dudley Council said: "It will provide fantastic opportunities for businesses, big and small, to expand as they benefit from reduced business rates or tax breaks for purchasing machinery."

Vineyard food and drink festival

HALFPENNY Green Vineyards is holding a food and wine festival this summer.

The event at the site in Tom Lane, near Bobington, will be on June 10, as part of English Wine Week.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



It's just the ticket for winding up wardens

A PARKING company has been working overtime in Birmingham, plastering a battered old Hyundai with 26 fixed penalty notices, worth £100 a time – at least 10 times what the car is worth.

It's not often that I feel much sympathy with traffic wardens, but on this occasion they have a point.

It must be a bit annoying if people just abandon old bangers on your property, with no legal way of getting them removed.

I don't suppose they will see any of the £2,600 they are seeking, but slapping on a fresh ticket each day probably brightens up the monotony of the job.

Besides, it's also given me a great idea of how to beat the wardens at their own game. While I don't normally advocate using pay-and-display car parks, there are occasions when there is no choice. Such as when you're in a strange town, and you don't know where the nearest back street with unlimited free parking is.

The important thing is that every time you use one of these car parks, make sure you hang on to the old ticket. And when you have built up a sizeable collection, stick every one on the windscreen every time you park.

Of course, you will still have to buy a ticket each time you park, but imagine making the warden check the dates of 20 different tickets. Almost worth the cost of buying the ticket in the first place.

□ □ □

SIR Dave Brailsford has been accused of presiding over a bullying culture during his time at the helm of British Cycling, pursuing a "win-at-all-costs" mentality.

This was followed by the chairman of UK Athletics, Ed Warner, saying that Britain puts too much focus on winning medals. Presumably, the England football team's in the clear, then?

□ □ □

THE chief constable of West Midlands Police has rallied against proposals for future police chiefs to be recruited from non-police backgrounds.

Dave Thompson said such a move would be "unthinkable", questioning whether outsiders would have the experience or knowledge required.

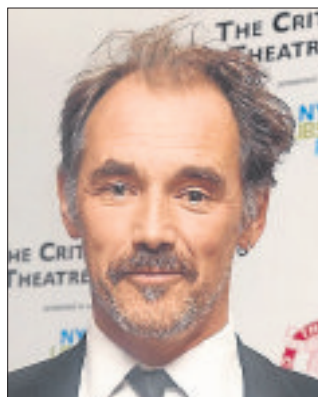
Totally agree. It would like, well, an MP with no journalistic experience becoming editor of a major newspaper, wouldn't it?

□ □ □

A SHOPPING centre in Dudley has been accused of dodging rates by claiming that a unit on its sixth floor is a snail farm.

Two questions: (1) how hard can it be to establish the presence or otherwise of a snail farm? If the place is teeming with shelled molluscs, it probably is one, if not, it's not. (2) Who in their right mind would want to breed snails, apart from, perhaps, the manufacturers of slug pellets?

Headlines could apply to any country JOINING the EU



Mark Rylance – supports questions over income tax exemptions



Jean-Claude Juncker – led the hand-wringing over UK leaving the EU



Nicola Sturgeon – angry over delay over a Scottish referendum

Leap in the dark, that was many years ago

INTO the abyss. On the edge of the unknown. A leap in the dark. Have you noticed how all the apocalyptic headlines about Britain leaving the EU could be just as well applied to any country joining the EU?

INDEED, history may record that Britain's greatest gift to Europe was to warn the nations now queuing up to join the EU that getting out is not a simple matter, as we were assured for 40 years, but well-nigh impossible. Once you're in, you're in and before the welcoming fanfares are even over, the gates are firmly locked behind you.

THEY still don't get it, do they? Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker led the hand-wringing and breast-beating as the European Union celebrated its 60th birthday without Britain. It was, he declared, a tragedy that the UK was leaving. Reality check, please. The whole point is that we aren't leaving the organisation we joined back in 1973. The UK signed up to a free-trade area. We ended up as an unwilling member of an undemocratic 28-nation European superstate. Brussels changed the rules, not us. That's why we are quitting. And we won't be the last.

WHO will blink first in the titanic battle of the Amazons raging over Scottish independence?

Here are two obdurate women, neither of whom are given to retreating, in eyeball-to-eyeball conflict over one of the great issues of the day, which will affect these islands for generations to come. Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's First Minister, says Prime Minister Theresa May should not dare challenge the expected decision of the Scottish Parliament over an earlier, rather than a later, referendum on independence. May says a referendum cannot be countenanced until after Brexit. In short, never the twain shall meet.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I MUST be missing something in the raging civil-liberties row over an Englishman's right not to have his "end to end" encrypted emails deciphered by the authorities. For a start, what sort of person thinks he needs military-grade coding? Obviously, it's useful for adulterers, drug dealers and terrorists. But why would a normal, law-abiding person need it? It has only been available for a few years and presumably people managed perfectly well before it was invented. Secondly, if you really are dealing in life-or-death secrets, why would you take the risk, despite the maker's assurances, that end-to-end encryption will be secure for all time, and that neither the supplier, nor anyone else will try to unravel it? Thanks, but no thanks. When I go undercover I will rely on my trusty invisible ink, dead letter boxes and cryptic spy-greetings whispered on benches in Hyde Park. The corn grows tall in Vladivostok.

A DAILY Telegraph reader sees a peacock butler in late March and asks: "Is this a record?" Expect more of the same as readers everywhere report spring arrivals, from butterflies to cuckoos. They always end with the question: "Is this a record?" Every claim reminds me of the line from Round the Horne when a reader inquired: "Sir, I have a 12-inch grooved plastic disc with a hole in the middle. Is this a record?"

AN 80-something reader hits back at the report of old 'uns being wary of using cashpoints in case they hold up younger users. He tells another tale, of young 'uns causing the hold-ups:

"In goes the card and, oops, it's maxed out. He tries another card. Same result. Checks the account balance. Turns to his mate: 'Got your card?' Then the performance starts all over again."

I WROTE earlier this week about actor Mark Rylance supporting a tax system which would allow conscientious objectors not to pay income tax for defence spending. A reader writes: "In my view we should not be obliged to subsidise the arts from our taxes." Over to you, Mr Rylance.

"MERCATOR projection" may ring a bell from your school-days geography lessons. It is the commonest format used to portray the globe of the world as a flat map. Unfortunately, Mercator distorts the continents, shrinking Africa and enlarging Europe and North America. Schools in Massachusetts are now introducing maps based on the more accurate Peters projection. Pupils are reportedly astonished to discover how big Africa really is, and how much smaller is the United States. And our homeland? The British Isles appears as a little outcrop tucked away almost on the roof of the world. Such a tiny, insignificant place. So why does the rest of the world speak our language?

I BET there are huge savings to be made in the NHS by stopping doctors prescribing remedies which can be bought over the counter. The proposal, announced by NHS England, takes me back to a strange encounter with a doctor long ago when I had a sore throat. He was one of the old-school GPs; no eye-contact, little patience and much mumbling. "You could always try mumble-mumble," he mumbled. "Try what?" I asked. He sighed irritably, filled out a prescription form and handed it to me. It said "Strepsils." The Strepsils were cheaper at the chemist's than the cost of the prescription.

TALKING POINT



Bingo! I made grade by ticking right box

MANY years ago (all right, I confess, it was the early 1970s) I found myself facing a daunting challenge – trying to scrape a French O-level with only a rudimentary grasp of the language.

I'd done all right in class, with the help of the school's state-of-the-art language lab, a number of "personal" booths complete with tape recorders, allowing pupils to work at their own pace.

The exam itself, however, was a different matter. How would I be able to remember all those male/female nouns, verbs and accents? But wait, help was at hand in the shape of a series of multiple-choice questions, or "bingo papers" as they were known among us pupils.

I'll come to how I fared in a moment, but first let me explain how I came to recall that experience of pinning my hopes on ticking enough correct boxes in order to gain an educational qualification.

Just recently, I was filling in an application form online, only to find that I was prevented from clicking through to the next page by an ominous message telling me that my attempts so far were invalid, or words to that effect.

Luckily, I noticed on scrolling to the top of the page that another message informed me the passwords I had entered were wrong, so I checked them carefully, only to find I had typed them exactly as I had written them down.

After several minutes of re-entering these infuriating codes, I was on the verge of giving up and going back to the tried and tested method of pen and paper, when I had a brainwave: check that I'd written the passwords down correctly. Doh! I'd written down one bit wrong.

I was able to sail through the rest of the application process. All this started me thinking: have we become so reliant on ticking boxes online that we've lost our powers of logic? So many websites these days seem at least half-a-dozen clicks of the mouse ahead of the user. Type in your postcode and you'll be offered a list of the houses in your street.

And if you've used that website previously, it can be most alarming when, on being asked for your email address, you only have to offer up the first letter and the site will do the rest.

Then there's the conundrum of having to distinguish the letter O from the figure zero when asked to type in a security code, not forgetting the crazy notion that we automatically know whether to put spaces in, say, a phone number or 16-digit bank card number – and only after we've navigated the "Would you care to take our survey?" page.

I've decided we're just not up to any of this yet, especially as coming up with a "strong" password with a specified number of symbols, characters, both upper and lower case, and numerals can often take so long. As for the French O-level, I got a (very low-grade) pass. Bingo!

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No place for word 'war' in Brexit rhetoric

SO Theresa has finally set the date for invoking Article 50. I predict that the next strategy which the Hard Brexiters will employ will be to generate bitterness, ill-feeling and animosity between the ordinary people of Britain and the ordinary people of Europe.

The strategy is already getting under way with Philip Hammond's provocative and belligerent statements - 'we won't shrink from Brexit war', 'the British people have a great fighting spirit' and 'the UK will not sink off like a wounded animal'.

Who is he to speak for the UK when

it looks as if the United Kingdom may not be united much longer thanks to the machinations of the aggressive Hard Brexit minority? Has anyone in Europe used such inflammatory language and the word 'war'?

We voted to give up the privileges of being in the EU, they did not vote to expel us. Quite the contrary, they begged us to stay, united.

If you resign from a club you cannot then accuse the club of punishing you because you no longer enjoy its privileges. Get real!

I can only hope that the ordinary

people of Britain and Europe will quietly go about their business, continue trying to promote international fellowship and resist the propaganda which the militants will be pouring out. The ordinary UK citizens are now being bullied by a vociferous minority and forced to go in a direction which most of them did not choose.

I hope that we don't wake up in a couple of years to find that we have sunk the ship to stop any more refugees climbing aboard.

ROBERT PERRY, RBBSA
Stourbridge

Where does NHS pledge come from?

COMMENTING on the under-funding of the NHS, several correspondents have repeated the claim which has been persistently and, in my opinion, erroneously made in the wider media.

It claims that an undertaking was given by pro-Brexit politicians that in the event of our leaving Europe our £53 million daily contribution to the EU budget would be used to fund the NHS.

However, having closely followed the run-up to the Referendum, its aftermath and subsequent events, I cannot recall one single politician stating that all, or even most, of this money would be directed to the NHS, much as it may need it.

It would appear that this wonderful piece of wishful thinking is simply being used by the Remoaners as a rather floppy and ineffective stick with which to beat the Brexiters

B WILLIAMS
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Blot on the town centre landscape

PEOPLE of Dudley, I would advise you not to get too excited over the transformation Dudley Council has planned for the Birdcage Walk shopping area.

If it takes anywhere near as long as the Cavendish House agenda, it will be a long way off. From every angle, Cavendish House is a disgrace - the bypass, Castle Hill and Birdcage Walk itself all give a disgusting view.

Don't anyone suggest it has only been evacuated for five years. By my reckoning it must be 20 years plus. This building is a blot on the landscape and so many deadlines have been suggested for improvements which never come about.

I despair, but then again the council is so busy with out-of-town developments, how can it find time for Dudley town centre?

MRS L SHELTON
Dudley

It's time to scrap the TV licence

ALMOST 109,000 people have signed the petition to debate in Parliament that it is time to scrap the annual TV licence.

At £145 it is now very expensive especially for elderly people who have fixed incomes. In this day and age it is an out-dated sum of money for people to find year in, year out.

Television, for some elderly people and those who are single, is the only means they have for entertainment. It is time for the BBC to take the responsibility and make its corporation pay its own way, like all of the other television companies have too.

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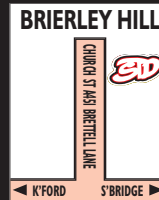


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Anniversary bash set to be a thriller

GREEN-FINGERED thrills abound for all ages with BBC Gardeners' World Live due at Birmingham's NEC in just a couple of months.

And this year it is a celebration of 50 years of Gardeners' World, in Monty Don's own words, this is "our big anniversary bash". For foodies it's a double bonus as all tickets include entry to the BBC Good Food Show taking place at the NEC at the same time - June 15-18.

The Chronicles have teamed up with the organisers to offer 30 of our readers the chance to win a pair of tickets. These will be valid any day except Saturday.

So much on offer, the five gardens in the APL avenue offer take-home ideas, while a range of flora is on show across the Floral Marquee and a series of Show Gardens. The BBC Gardeners' World Live Theatre features

appearances by celebrities such as TV gardeners Monty Don and Alan Titchmarsh. The new series of the Gardeners' World TV programme has started with a feature on the Golden Jubilee Award Plant, to find the plant that has had the biggest impact on gardens in the last 50 years. The winning plant will be announced at BBC Gardeners' World Live on Thursday, June 15.

There will be a host of anniversary features planned including an 'Anniversary Garden' designed by the eminent Professor David Stevens, the 'Nostalgia Garden' by Paul Stone and birthday cake created exclusively by Nadiya Hussain and much more.

The BBC TV team will be filming live from the Show on Thursday, June 15 as part of a special one-hour anniversary Gardeners' World programme airing on BBC2 on the following day whilst the NEC event is in full swing.

Gardeners' World Live

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HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question.

Where is BBC Gardeners' World Live held?

Send your entry on a postcard with your name, address and email address to Garden Show competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, April 14. The tickets will be sent via email but are not valid for Saturday show.

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Golden opportunity for four in TV dance special

FOUR men are starting up their own business after being put together for a TV documentary which goes behind the scenes at a Wolverhampton dance school.

Warren and Jane Bullock are the owners of Zig Zag Dance Factory and are former British, UK, European and World Professional ballroom finalists and former All England champions.

They started their school in 1994 and now operate venues in Wolverhampton, Lower Penn, Codsall, Sedgley, Stourbridge, Great Barr, Sutton Coldfield, Streetly and Wyde Green.

A new eight-part TV series, Baby Ballroom is set to air on 5Star in June. It goes behind the scenes at the school and features 'the Golden Boys' group in three episodes.

Excited

The boys feature in the programme as part of an event run by the school, which has now led them to set up their own business.

Mr Bullock, who is 52, said: "We were really excited when we found out that Firecracker Films would be making this show based on our dance school."

"We had no idea how big it was going to be but we have enjoyed every minute of it. The show follows the day-to-day running of our dance school, our triplet daughters India, Savannah and Alicia and also six of our competitive junior couples on their journey through the ups and downs of the competitive ballroom world of dancing."

It's the biggest documentary of this type ever done on ballroom dancing and we really hope its going to put Wolverhampton on the map.

"The boys were picked from Dave



Working out - Lee, Jamie, Joe and David



Warren and Jane Bullock



Golden Boys have appeared in a new reality TV show to be shown in June

Corfield Gym for their physiques as we had a part for them in a huge red carpet ball. The boys looked amazing and were great fun to work with. We hope everyone likes it and finds it inspirational."

Jamie Higgins, 24, from Pattingham, Dave Corfield, 38 from Albrighton, Lee McDonald, 28 from Shifnal and Joe Lockley, 25, from

Lawley all appear in the show. Joe, who runs Bright Star Boxing, based at the David Corfield Gym at Albrighton, said: "Warren used to use the gym and he needed four lads to take part in the show. "Now we're being hired for other events and we've made a Facebook page where people can find out more information and book us." Search for GoldenBoysDCG

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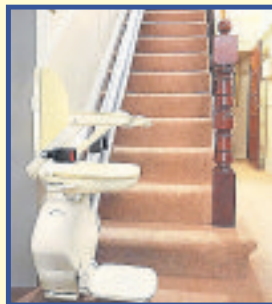
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Phil's candid camera caught the Black Country

A COLLECTION of 52 photographs taken in the Black Country over a 30 year period is being displayed at Dudley's Himley Hall.

The pictures are by professional news photographer Phil Loach and they represent a wide range of events and incidents.

But all of them display a distinctive sense of place and purpose which is peculiar to the Black Country.

Shoppers in a blizzard, fish and chip diners and kids making a playground out of a building site are among the subjects which have attracted Phil's attention - along with visits by celebrities and ordinary people appearing in extraordinary situations.

Other pictures reveal dramatic changes that have taken place in the Black Country landscape allied to the huge decline in industry.

Studied

Born in the Kates Hill area of Dudley in 1949, Phil studied photography at Leicester Polytechnic and then became a staff cameraman with the Dudley Herald. During the next 45 years he worked for other West Midland newspaper groups. He is now a freelance photographer based in Tenbury Wells.

Alongside his press output Phil has always taken personal photographs and this new exhibition concentrates mainly on those images. He says: "Although I've had thousands of photos published over the years its really nice to see this collection of favourites that say something personal and meaningful about my time working around the Black Country."

The exhibition, entitled A Time It Was, opened on Saturday and runs Sunday, June 11. It is open every day except Mondays between 2pm and 5pm. For more information call Phil on 07392 323379.



News photographer Phil Loach is displaying his favourite pictures taken over a 30-year period



John Inman, star of TV sitcom Are You Being Served?, at the opening of a shop in Halesowen in 1975



Pow wow? A visitor and two exhibitors take a rest at Dudley Show in 1992

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Record low for teen pregnancies

TEENAGE pregnancies in the West Midlands have fallen to their lowest rate since records began.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics have revealed that with 23.7 conceptions for every 1,000 girls aged between 15 and 17, teenage pregnancies in the country are at their lowest levels since data was first gathered back in 1969.

Comparing the number of teenagers falling pregnant in the West Midlands from 2015 to 2014, there was an 11 per cent drop from 26.5 per 1,000 aged 15 to 17.

Furthermore it was down 54 per cent compared to the number of adolescents getting pregnant according to figures in 1998 when it was 51.7 per 1,000 aged 15 to 17.

Despite this, the number of teenagers falling pregnant in the West Midlands is still 17 per cent higher than in the East Midlands.

Anti-social behaviour leads to more complaints in borough

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour rose across Dudley borough last year, with hundreds of complaints over noise, rowdy youths and nuisance vehicles.

More than 2,000 incidents were reported across the borough between April and December last year.

The figures were revealed in a Dudley Council review of anti-social behaviour services.

More than 200 extra incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported both in the first quarter of the year, between April and June 2016, and the second quarter between July and September 2016, when compared to the same months

during the previous year. In total, between April and December 2016, there was a total of 2,201 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to the council's dedicated response team.

Between April and June 2015 there were 605 reports of antisocial behaviour, compared to 821 in April and June 2016. While between July and September 2016, there were 856 antisocial behaviour cases, up from 615 in July and September 2015.

Action

The report also detailed the action taken against the culprits with warning letters issued in 219 cases, and 133 referred to agencies such

as the police between April 2016 and February this year.

Four became subject to covert surveillance in a bid to tackle the problems, but only one incident of nuisance behaviour saw an eviction notice obtained.

Examples of anti-social activity reported to Dudley Council included noise and vehicle nuisance, drug issues, rowdy behaviour, intimidation, harassment and the threat or use of violence, criminal damage, vandalism and littering.

The report presented to Dudley Council's overview and scrutiny management board last week also noted how new powers introduced with the Crime & Policing Act 2014, had helped to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Go behind the scenes at SVR

THIRTY models railways will be laid out for visitors during an open house weekend at the Severn Valley Railway.

Visitors can pop by the steam rail line, which runs between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster, this weekend (April 8 and 9).

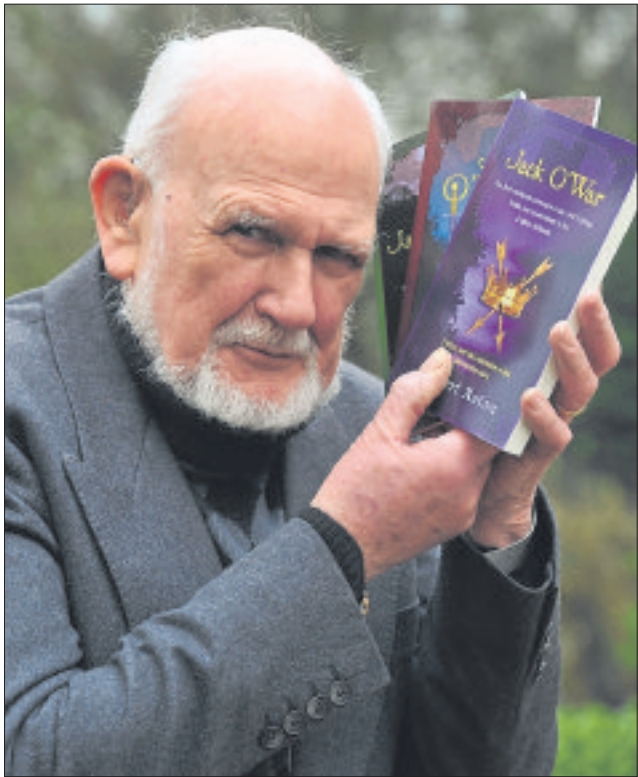
Models will be on display in Kidderminster Diesel Depot and The Engine House in Highley.

There will also be behind the scenes tours and the opportunity for potential volunteers to find out how to get involved.

Bridgnorth Locomotive Works and Bewdley Yard, as well as Bridgnorth, Bewdley North and Kidderminster signalboxes will also be open to visitors.

For further information about the open weekend visit www.svr.co.uk or call 01562 757900.

Jack's back in third novel



Author Robert Aston with his latest novel Jack O'War, third of the Jack O'Dudley books

AN AUTHOR has had the latest book in his trilogy of historical novels set in the Black Country published.

Robert Aston, from Coleley, has penned the latest instalment of his medieval adventures, called Jack O'War, centred an archer at Dudley Castle.

The story, set in the 1300s, uses the old Middle English language in parts, a vernacular thought to be closely associated with the Black Country dialect.

Mr Aston said it was a relief to get the book released after a frustrating period dealing with publishers.

The 78-year-old said: "It's been a struggle to get these books out, with companies going bust, back and forth with the editors, but I'm deeply indebted to them as the stories have developed over the extra waiting period."

£10m investment as engineers race ahead

STUDENTS are enjoying life in the fast lane thanks to a £10 million investment in engineering.

A new engineering school has been unveiled at the University of Wolverhampton's Telford Innovation Campus, where the ribbon was also cut to launch its new racing car to take part in this year's F3 season.

The newly refurbished building was opened by the Chancellor of the university, Lord Paul Swraj, founder of the Caparo Group, following a manufacturing and engineering conference.

Speaking at the ceremony, Punjab-born Chancellor Lord Paul of Marylebone, said: "When I came to this country in the 1960s and started work, British manufacturing was 40 per cent of the total growth. It is now less than 10 per cent. So it gives me great pleasure to see this establishment of engineering and knowing that the team behind it are so enthusiastic."

Cash could go up in smoke

RESIDENTS and businesses using unauthorised fuel could face fines of up to £1,000. Dudley Council is proposing to introduce a borough-wide smoke control order to tackle pollution.

The new order will make it an offence to emit smoke from the chimney of any home or business, unless residents can prove they are using authorised environment-friendly fuels. The order will also make it an offence to sell unauthorised fuel but there are some exemptions.

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Zoo panto sponsor, oh yes it is!

DUDLEY Zoo is once again sponsoring Wolverhampton Grand's pantomime with bosses saying they are looking forward to working with the theatre.

Staff have been showing their support for the festive family show, which this year is Jack and the Beanstalk.

Appearing this festive season will be singer Gareth Gates in the lead role and, back by popular demand, are actress and Loose Women presenter Lisa Riley as the fairy, Ian Adams as the dame, Adam C Booth as Jack's brother and the Black Country's Doreen Tipton. It comes hot on the heels of Doreen being named Best Panto Newcomer in the Great British Pantomime Awards.

Tickets for Jack and the Beanstalk are already on sale.

Mine heritage to inspire art

PEOPLE are being invited to take part in a new project about Dudley's history of limestone mining.

Limestone Links will see the town's Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust put on display artwork inspired by the area's limestone workings at The Portal and create an e-book of poems and stories.

The deadline for entries is July 31. For more information call heritage activities assistant Holly Wain on 0121 557 6265.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Museum to take visitors on journey into dinosaur age

A WALKWAY taking visitors on a journey through Dudley's history back to earliest geological times is being created at the town's archives centre.

The building, off Tipton Road, has undergone extensive building work to accommodate the items and artwork previously displayed at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery in St James's Road.

By Judith Hawkins

The museum and gallery closed in December as part of council cost-cutting moves.

Now building work has finished on converting part of the archives centre into a museum display space.

Cabinets and shelves are being put into place before items are brought out of storage to be put on show once again.

Ambitious

One of the most exciting aspects of the ambitious plans is the addition of an animatronic dinosaur.

A large plinth has already been created to enable this Jurassic addition to take centre stage, ready for when this new public area opens in September.

The project is being overseen by Jane Lamine, business operations manager at Dudley Council. She said: "It's very exciting. There's

going to be a big animatronic dinosaur and a diorama about what it was like back then.

"We will also display some of the Dudley Castle finds from the archaeological dig. They have been on display previously but only a very small selection. We will be able to display pieces people have never seen before."

The new display space will mean many of the borough's treasures being taken out of storage and put on public view for the first time, from fossils to many fine examples of local glasswork.

The collections will span the ages from pre-history, through Roman and medieval times to the Industrial Revolution.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member responsible for tourism, said: "It's going to be a new museum, fit for the future."



Museum fit for the future – Councillor Khurshid Ahmed in the Archives with an artists' impression of the main gallery

College in £30m plan for campus

DUDLEY College has unveiled plans to create a £30 million university and technical campus.

University Centre Dudley (UCD) will provide advanced skills training in technology. The proposed site is on Tipton Road, next to Warwick Manufacturing Group's planned Very Light Rail Innovation Centre.

Dudley College Principal Lowell Williams said the development will create a new university technical park, providing a route for further training from the college's Advance I and Advance II centres.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "This is brilliant news for Dudley because it will open up opportunities."

Labour candidate for West Midlands Mayor Sion Simon, who last week visited the college, made UCD one of his key pledges.

Praise for geology team

WORK at a site in Dudley hailed for its geological importance has received national recognition.

The team at the Wrens Nest Nature Reserve has been praised and awarded £500 by the Geologists' Association to help fund projects. Fossils from the site are studied by experts all over the world.

Alan Lunt, of Dudley Council, said: "I'm delighted to see the dedication of staff and volunteers nationally recognised."

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Talent gets a chance to shine for celebrity judges

SOAP star Sam Kane along and his wife, actress and model Linda Lusardi, will be judging a new talent competition at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

The celebrity couple are launching a search for undiscovered talent and will be joined by Britain's Got Talent finalist Paul Burling on the judging panel.

Former Coronation Street, Emmerdale and Brookside star Sam said: "We are looking for variety acts, so it can be anything from magicians to dance groups, singers to plate spinners.

"This is the first time we are doing this so we are going to see how it goes.

"It would be great if we could do it several times a year."

He added: "It is a great venue and we want to showcase that."

The actor, who now works as an agent, will be on the lookout for acts to promote. Anyone over the age of 10 can enter the competition, and they don't have to be from the Brierley Hill area.

Auditions for the competition will take place at the Brierley Hill Civic Hall on July 26.

The judges will then make their decisions on which performers have successfully made the line-up for a show at the same venue on August 12.

Tickets for the final show will cost £5, and the winner of the competition will receive a prize fund as well as the chance to perform at other events.

Entries must be received in advance by contacting the Brierley Hill Civic Hall on (01384) 573381 or via the www.bhllcivic.co.uk website.



TV soap star Sam Kane launches this summer's Search For A Star at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

Standards improve at home for elderly

A CARE home, which was previously told by a health watchdog that it needed to improve, has been rated good after bringing in new management.

Greenleigh Care Home, on Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, looks after older people, including those with dementia and is registered to provide accommodation and personal care for up to 35 people.

It was previously rated as 'requires improvement' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), due to concerns that residents were not consistently safe and weren't always receiving medication as prescribed.

Inspectors have returned and given the home a 'good' rating across the board, stating: "People felt safe and were confident that staff knew how to support them safely. Staffing levels were based on the dependency levels of the people living in the home. People were supported to safely take their medication."

The new report continued: "People described staff as kind and caring. People were supported to make their own decisions on a daily basis and were treated with dignity and respect."

Father is jailed after driving a stolen Audi

A FATHER has been sentenced to 14 months in jail after he was caught wiping down a car stolen following a burglary.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Brett Spittle, aged 32, of Orchard Street, Pensnett, had a history of drug addiction and was paid around £50 to drive a stolen Audi A3 from 'point A to point B' following a burglary at a Wordsley home.

He was sentenced after pleading guilty to handling stolen goods, driving whilst disqualified and driving without insurance.

Prosecutor Edward Soulsby said the burglary took place overnight on December 16 and 17 in Kinner Street, Wordsley, with valuable items taken and a key to an Audi A3.

He said: "Two days later, at around 3.20am on December 19, the owner of the car heard a noise and saw the car being driven away. She puts this incident on social media, and at 11am a friend saw that vehicle.

Gloves

"They saw it being parked up, the driver getting out, and wiping the steering wheel clean and the door handle clean with plastic gloves."

The police were called and identified it as the stolen vehicle from a spare key. An area search was conducted and Spittle was found with a group in a Hyundai car.

During his questioning the Hyundai pulled away and the stolen key of the Audi A3 fell from the rear wheel where it had been hidden by the defendant.

By Judith Hawkins

Spittle had been on licence and disqualified from driving.

Representing Spittle, Mr Gurdeep Garcha said: "He became a father in December. He now realises that it is a significant punishment to not only him but to both his partner and his son.

"He has struggled with his drug addiction for many years. He was approached by those who stole this vehicle to move it from point A to point B who said he would be paid a small amount. To get around £50 to source some heroin."

Recorder Ben Mills sentenced Spittle to 14 months imprisonment for handling stolen goods. He will serve at least half in jail before being released on licence.

He will be disqualified from driving for 25 months and must pass an extended re-test before he can drive again. No separate penalty was made for driving without insurance but his licence was endorsed.

Recorder Mills told him: "You are a new father. It's not just you that you have got to think about."

Chocolate treat for Easter quiz winner

AN 11 inches tall milk chocolate treat is on offer to one lucky youngster who can correctly answer questions about Netherton during the Easter holidays.

Free quiz sheets will be available at Netherton Library, on Northfield Road, and at the bakery Baked In Netherton, on Halesowen Road, or online at www.discoverdudley.org.

The competition is open from Saturday to April 23. Some answers are likely to be known or easily researched but others may demand a visit to Netherton, and while in town young visitors can enjoy free Easter-themed craft activities at Netherton Library.

Completed quiz sheets should be placed into one of the competition boxes at Netherton Library or Baked In Netherton. The closing date is midday on Monday April 24.

For more details on the quiz, go to www.discoverdudley.org.uk website.

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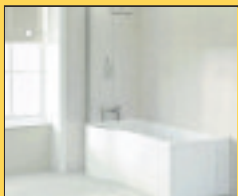


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Mayor awards honour community leaders

COMMUNITY leaders were recognised for their outstanding work by the Mayor of Dudley at his charity ball.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif handed out awards recognising those who have stood out in the fields of education, sport, environment and art, as well as community.

Hundreds attended the ball and civic awards at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill.

Councillor Hanif said it was a 'real honour' to have met the 'amazing' winners and celebrate their achievements.

Each winner was presented with handcrafted glass trophy and a certificate in recognition of their work in one of seven categories.

Shaz Saleem, from Dudley, won the coveted mayor's award after receiving the most votes in an online poll for his work promoting taxi safety and charity fund raising. Rose Cook, Keith Stryde and the Diyya Project came runners-up and also received a glass award for their hard work.

Edwards

The Duncan Edwards award for sport went to Andy Pountney, chairman of Stourbridge Town Football Club, in recognition of the club's success in the FA Cup. The runner-up was Mark Grazier who runs Hartshill Strollers Walking Football Club.

Lorna Morrison picked up the William Shenston award for environment, sponsored by Jessup Brothers, after impressing judges as chair of the Friends of March Park and Lawyers Field. Don Davies was runner-up for his work with the Woodseton Charitable Trust.

The Thomas Attwood award for education, sponsored by The School Travel Company, went to Roger



The Mayor with Lorna Morrison



Mark Grazier with the Mayor



Shaz Saleem pictured with fellow guests at the mayor's ball and civic awards

Timmins, chairman of governors at the Brier School for 25 years. Alison Pell picked up the runner-up award as headteacher at Hawbush Primary School.

Sarah Andrews was awarded the Mike Holder award for business, sponsored by Dudley College, after setting up a company to deliver hot meals to the elderly. The runner-up award went to Olutayo Arikawe who provides a pharmacy service.

The Cedric Harwicke award for arts, sponsored by GMB Union, went to Jude Moreland who runs In-Sound Company Community Choir. Musi-

cian Gurchran Bhujhangy was the runner-up.

The Frank Foley award for community spirit, sponsored by Cushillo Personnel, went to Saleh Ali, chairman of the Highfields Tenants and Residents Association, while Vi Wood won the runners-up award for her work supporting the borough's homeless.

Thousands of pounds were raised from the awards, in association with A1 Rentals and Pro-tech Pavers, and will be split between the mayor's charities, which are Friends of Alfie Johnson, Diabetes UK Dudley branch and Dudley CIL.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Discover what holiday parks have to offer at open event

A trio of parks in the heart of England are opening their gates over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend to welcome visitors who want to explore the idea of holiday home ownership.

Award-winning 'Discover Parks', is hosting a showcase weekend at each of their three sites, which all nestle beneath the rolling hills on the Herefordshire/Welsh Marches border.

Pearl Lake, the largest of the trio, is a luxury country park set around a breath-taking 15-acre glacier lake, whilst Arrow Bank is a small select park in the historical black and white village of Eardisland.

Diversity

Rockbridge Park sits in the dramatic landscape just outside the Welsh border town of Presteigne and as well as having luxury holiday homes, offers residential park homes and lodges.

Priding themselves on the variety and diversity that they offer, owners Glenn and Hannah Jones say what sets them apart from their competitors is that they can usually match most holiday home owners' needs.

"Some people want more facilities for families, whilst others want a smaller, more intimate country retreat. Within our three parks we are able to deliver on all counts!"

"As well as a nine hole golf course, top class bowling green, 20 acres of woodland to wander in, two rivers to fish, we have recently introduced a children's zip wire, a BMX track and a new wildlife station."

This is the first open weekend of the



Pearl Lake is a luxury country park set around a 15-acre glacier lake

season and a chance for customers from across the Midlands region to view the wide range of pre-owned holiday homes, plus the latest 2017 model holiday homes and lodges on display. Each park will be hosting events over

the weekend and as they're all within 15 minutes drive of each other visitors will be able to familiarise themselves with the surrounding area.

Call in for full details or visit the website www.discoverparks.co.uk

Join thousands as Run for Joel returns to park

A FUNDRAISING fun run organised in aid of three Black Country terror victims is returning this year.

The inaugural Run for Joel in September last year was supported by thousands of people and raised £27,000.

The event at Sandwell Valley Country Park was held in memory of Tunisia terror attack victim Joel Richards, his uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Patrick Evans.

It was organised by the Smile for Joel charity, which was set up by Joel's mother Suzy and her surviving son Owen.

Now, after the success of the event, Ms Richards has confirmed it is coming back and she hopes it will be even bigger and better.

She said: "It is happening again, on September 10. I want people to put that date in their diaries so they can book a place when the website is ready."

"That will be up and running in the next couple of weeks. Hopefully it will be bigger and better than last year."



Owen and Suzy Richards with Walsall manager Jon Whitney, who started the race

"We had thousands of people down at Sandwell Valley last year and I want everyone to be on board again – as they know what the event means."

Football referee Joel, 19, was murdered in Tunisia along with his grandfather Patrick Evans, 78, and 49-year-old

uncle Adrian Evans in Sousse in June 2015.

The trio and Owen were all massive Saddlers fans. At last year's event Walsall FC manager Jon Whitney started the 3km fun run as well as taking part himself.

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Simon Riley from Wombourne with his book



The crew of the Plymouth ship seen during the Falklands War



Simon's picture of the attack by the Argentinian Skyhawks



Simon nicknamed 'Spike' the radio operator



The hole in the Plymouth's funnel caused by a missile

Ex-radio operator Simon tunes in to his experiences during Falklands War

IT'S not a book title that suggests the author is a Falklands War veteran who survived an air attack by five Skyhawk jets at close range.

But Simon's A Poof's Name is the title that 55-year-old Simon Riley wanted for his no-holds-barred memoir of his time in the Royal Navy, including his stint on active service in the Falklands on HMS Plymouth.

The title is a direct quote from his boss on board ship, Radio Supervisor Wright, a burly Scot who from then on always referred to him by his nickname of Spike.

The book contains many anecdotes about life on the ocean wave on a boat staffed by a crew that was 75 per cent Glaswegian. There is even humour in the one stand-out story of the day HMS Plymouth was bombed – and hit – by Argentinian fighter pilots. Simon had not joined up in December 1979 expecting to go to war.

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

"I was looking for adventure, and joining the navy, visiting different parts of the world, seemed like a fairly safe bet," he recalls, sitting at the kitchen table of his neat Wombourne house.

But in April 1982, as his unit were on spring training in Gibraltar, looking forward to an imminent five-month deployment to the West Indies, news came over the World Service of an invasion of Britain's remote Falkland Islands.

"We wondered why on earth anyone would want to invade an island in the Outer Hebrides, says Simon, at the time a 20-year-old radio operator. "We had no idea where the Falklands were." But they had time to find out on the three-week 8,000 mile journey to the tip of South America at the head of the Task Force.

Once there, they spent long days on

watch, broken up only by the occasional daylight air raid on San Carlos Bay, known as Bomb Alley.

It was June 8 when that routine suddenly changed and HMS Plymouth came under fire as it nosed out of the bay to fire some 4.5in shells to the other side of the islands where there was reported to be an enemy observation point.

"I remember looking left and seeing five jets coming towards us," he says.

"The ship turned around and we were at full steam heading back to Bomb Alley when they swooped again and dropped five 1,000lb bombs on us, as well as 30mm and 20mm cannon shells which smashed into the port side."

Two of the bombs narrowly missed, but two more hit the quarter deck and another went through the funnel.

Amazingly, amid the noise and chaos on board, the young seaman had reached for his camera and taken pictures of the Skyhawks' approach. But for the next few hours, it was all hands on deck as thick,

acid fumes filled the ship from fires in the petty officers' mess and the dining hall.

The ship had also started to list as it took in water.

"The smoke was so thick you couldn't see through it. I remember throwing my gas mask to one of the lads in the tiller house so he could at least steer the ship.

"A couple of the guys in the turret got injured but not too seriously. We were so lucky – it was ridiculous."

Thirty-five years on, after time spent running a bar in Spain, working in commodity markets in London and walking the beat as a police officer stationed in West Bromwich, he decided to write down his experiences.

"I'd got all these stories in my head that I wanted to get down on paper, and I wanted to make my story different from other Falklands memoirs by making it light-hearted."

Now a family man, and a remarkably youthful-looking grandfather of two, he still meets up with his former shipmates at regular reunions. "We never did get to the West Indies," he grins.

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Politics debate encourages students to get involved

A POLITICS debate with students from across the borough took place at Dudley Council House.

The Dudley Politics Live event brought together members of Dudley College Students' Union and council representatives to offer an opportunity for the voices of students and other young people to be heard.

Naila Mansouri, student union welfare officer, said: "We had a really good turn out and the event was extremely positive."

"It was the first time that I had attended something like this and it was brilliant to see so many young people engage and take part in the discussion."

"We spoke about mental health, university fees, Brexit and current affairs. It was to enable young people to engage in matters in their area."

"The politicians were really helpful and not scared to get involved. It was extremely positive – I felt that it gave a bright outlook for the future for young people."

"The event is a fantastic opportunity for political parties to highlight their regard for the views of the younger generation – and encourage young people to have a greater sense of determination around their ability to meet with decision makers and be heard."

The audience included youngsters from local schools, Dudley College and unemployed young people.

The panel of politicians included Dudley North MP Ian Austin for Labour, Councillor Dean Perks for UKIP, Andi Mohr (Green), Councillor Patrick Harley (Conservatives) and Ryan Priest (Lib Dem).



Dudley College Students Union president Dan Wood, centre, with panel members, from left, Patrick Harley, Ian Austin, Dean Perks, Andi Mohr and Ryan Priest

Deal likely on sports ground price hike

A CRICKET club chairman has said he is hopeful of reaching an agreement with council bosses over a proposed rent increase, which he claimed could close the club.

Dudley Council wants raise the rent on the ground shared by Lye's football and cricket clubs by around 500 per cent but is now speaking to both clubs about a possible compromise.

Dave Borley, chairman of Lye Cricket Club, which has played at The Sports Ground since its formation in 1858, said it would struggle to survive if forced to pay the increased amount. He said the club had been asked to present details on how much rent other cricket clubs pay.

He said: "We think we should be paying around a third what we were originally quoted. We are more than happy to go forward with what we think is a fair rateable value but not something that will probably put us out of existence."

The footballers and cricketers have separate lease agreements on the site with Lye Town paying during the football season and cricket club in the summer.

Criticism on suggestion of civilian police boss

THE region's highest ranking police officer has hit out at suggestions civilians could be allowed to become chief constables in a major shake-up of policing.

A report in a national newspaper said business leaders, army veterans and senior civil servants could be invited to become chief constables, under Government plans.

Forces are currently run by police officers who have risen through the ranks.

The chief constable at West Midlands Police, Dave Thompson, said the radical change would be 'unthinkable'.

He questioned whether outsiders would have enough knowledge and experience for the role.

He also referred to the recent terror attack in Westminster and subsequent police raids in Birmingham and stressed experience of policing was vital.



Chief Constable Dave Thompson

Shortage

It has been suggested that letting people in with no prior background in policing could boost talent and experience of chief constables.

Chief Constable Thompson said via Twitter: "After the last few days one would think this unthinkable. Anyway, I fancy being an admiral, are we doing that too? Surely the same issue?!"

"There is a shortage of senior post applicants and a consultation needs to address this. Overseas chiefs can apply but none appointed."

"Policing is one of the most socially mobile professions. Being talented does not mean went to the right school, university, etc."

According to the report, a consultation on the plans began recently with the Na-

tional Police Chiefs Council and College of Policing.

A change in legislation could allow those from a variety of professions, including the military, teaching and medicine, to apply.

Steve White, chairman of the Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers, said he was against the move as chief constables required 'first-hand experience of responding in an operational capacity to incidents they would not encounter in any other walk of life'.

The move would be the latest reform in policing to give outsiders a role in the running of forces.

In 2012, elected police and crime commissioners, mostly with political backgrounds, were introduced to work alongside chief constables.

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HOUSEBUILDER Persimmon Homes has launched a recruitment drive to boost its pool of skilled workers and encourage apprentice bricklayers training at City of Wolverhampton College.

The firm approached the college to see how the two organisations could work together to further develop the skills that students need for future careers in the construction industry

The college has recommended 11 full-time bricklaying students for the Persimmon Homes apprenticeship scheme and they will be interviewed by the company. The successful applicants will then earn while they learn by combining working for Persimmon Homes West Midlands with studying at college.

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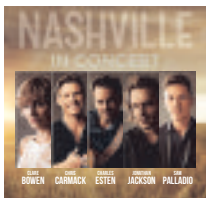
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Doreen for Mayor? No, I'm far too lazy

She's the first lady of the Black Country. Doreen Tipton, the region's pre-eminent Lazy Cow, is a crisp-eating, award-winning, panto-dazzling, loff-a-minute who'll be on the road in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Telford, Stafford, Brierley Hill and Cannock soon.

Her Grand Night Out is making its final run, her autumn show, Rise Of The Yam-Yam, is selling quicker than scratchings at a Dudley pub and she'll be back in panto at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

Happily, we tracked her down to Tipton – where else – to find out more about her remarkable year. This is how things went...

Doreen, first of all, congratulations on receiving two prestigious awards in the space of a week – Best Newcomer in the Great British Panto Awards in London, and then What's On readers voted you Midlands Entertainment Personality of the Year. How does it feel to be a winner?

"The panto award was a lovely surprise, and I got to meet Christopher Big Ones (Christopher Biggins), who is world-famous in tights. I couldn't remember anything that had happened the previous two months during the show, but I must have done something right.

"And the second award from What's On was even more incredible, because of who I was up against. It's an honour to be thought of in the same breath as the other four finalists. Julie Walters is a personal favourite of mine because I'm a big fan of the Harry Potter films, Bev Knight is a musical legend, and the bloke from Citizen Khan is apparently on the telly in a BBC comedy that they're really proud of, so I'm assuming he must be funny. I hadn't heard of Sir Lenny Henry, but he's obviously one to watch for the future. So yes, I feel blessed to have beaten them hands-down. But the losers have nothing to be ashamed of. They've done well to get this far."

What celebrations did you enjoy following the announcements? A packet of cheese and onion and half a Batham's, or something more exotic: a Desperate Dan pie and a pint of Lumphommer?

"Actually, I never drink on duty. Thankfully I'm never on duty, so it worked out well."

What are you working on at the moment?

"Working is probably too strong a word, but I have got several projects on the go. I'm currently in the middle of doing a short Spring tour with some final Grand Night Out shows for that that missed it first time around. Then I'm having a lie-down. We'll then be touring with a brand new show for autumn: Doreen: Rise of the Yam-Yam which is going to be epic. And along the way I'm filming a new DVD documentary called Doreen's Black Country where I tour around the area and meet some wonderful characters. I'm hoping it will be a funny and very affectionate account of our native land."

When you were growing up in Tipton, did you for a moment imagine you'd become an iconic local hero? Is there a sense of destiny about the rise and rise of the Yam-Yam?

"I'm not sure what iconic means, but if it means something nice, then yes. For too long the Black Country has lived in the shadow of neighbouring Brum, which itself has lived in the shadow of London. Nobody was taking us seriously. I hope that, through my comedy, I can finally get people to stop laughing at us."

From here, we imagine a move into politics. Will you be standing for the local council, as an MP, or seeking election as the President of another country?

"I was recently offered a job as President Trumpet's hod carrier, but

at my age I thought better of it. Actually I have considered forming the Yam-Yam Party, and putting some common-sense policies in place, such as making people who break the law pay for their prison food and accommodation."

And what if they can't afford it?

"If they can't afford it, they can sell their house, like old folk have to in order to afford their care

What's sup – Doreen enjoys a pint in The Fountain Inn, Tipton



home. What's the difference? Except one's a criminal and the other isn't. I'm seriously considering becoming a tax-payer, so I can complain about how the Government spends my money. Perhaps if I do go into politics I'll start small. Isn't the West Midlands after a new Mayor?"

Do you fancy the job?
"Oh... is it a job? No then."

The vast riches that your success will have brought will have to be invested wisely, we imagine. Will you be buying property in Tipton, like The Wreck? Or will you invest in 'osses?

"So far I've invested everything into scratchcards, which offer the biggest return on your outlay. I think the scratchcard idea should be rolled out to welfare generally. For example, instead of the Government paying you housing benefit directly, which is boring, you could have a month's rent as one of the scratchcard prizes, or some child benefit, or a week's free jobseekers, and then have lots of smaller prizes of things like multi-packs of crisps, or Pringles, and lucky bags for the kids. It would also be a great way for Government to control welfare spending, so that none of it is wasted on gambling."

With such a busy schedule, we imagine the only way you keep in touch with current affairs is by reading your favourite newspaper: the Star. Why are both so brilliant?

"Because they focus on local issues, for local folk. It's all very well the mainstream media bleating on about Trump and Brexit and foreign

I hadn't heard of Sir Lenny Henry, but he's obviously one to watch

countries every day, but what really matters is what happens down your street – or more importantly, down my street. In fact I think the Star should have an edition solely devoted to my street. There'd be some stories for you then, I tell you. Leave me out of it though."

And finally, Doreen, have you got a message for your fans?

"Ta."

Andy Richardson

I Doreen would like to make it clear that when it comes to politics, her views don't necessarily reflect her views.

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Kasabian – at O2 Academy



For Crying Out Loud rockers go all intimate

Kasabian are back with an explosive new album brimming with confidence, swagger and huge tunes.

And despite their stadium rockers status, Leicester's finest will be packing out the more intimate O2 Academy on Thursday (13) as part of their low-key, ease-back-in April tour.

Their sixth album, *For Crying Out Loud*, is released on April 28. Written and produced by Kasabian wizard Serge Pizzorno, and recorded at the 'Surgery', his home city studio, the album features 12 tracks that encapsulate everything that makes Kasabian one of this country's top bands.

First single *You're In Love With A Psycho* is a big pop song with an irrepressible hook. Other highlights include the soon-to-be-summer-anthem *Bless This Acid House*, the contagious *Good Fight* and the rock

steady angst of *Ill Ray (the King)*. Lead singer Tom Meighan has never sounded so good, wrapping himself around the addictive hooks.

"I decided to give myself six weeks to write an album like they used to do back in the day and that became really inspiring," Serge recalls.

"I made sure there was no fat on anything, it was going to be classic songs, no self-indulgence.

Following the more electronic direction on 2014's '48:13' Kasabian were keen to make a truly great guitar album. "We wanted to make a very positive album full of hope with guitars to remind people that it's still relevant," says Serge.

Kasabian have four UK no1 albums and have sold more than 5.5 million albums worldwide. They've won a Brit, seven NME awards, four Q Awards and have headlined various festivals.

It's new Version of Me-lanie C



With her seventh album *Version Of Me* released on her own Red Girl Records label last October, former Spice Girl Melanie C is on tour this month including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Sunday.

Recorded in LA and London, *Version Of Me* is a richly textured, deeply personal album in which the Liverpoolian pop icon lays bare her life over beats, shimmering synths and strings.

It's described as Melanie as you've always known her but as you've never heard her before.

Working with longtime co-writers Peter Vettese and Adam Argyle,

alongside the young south London production duo Sons Of Sonix Melanie reckons it is the freshest, most contemporary-sounding album of her career.

"I wanted to make an album that I would listen to now," says Melanie.

"I'm not a leftfield artist, I never will be. I write pop songs, but my aim this time was to approach every aspect of them differently, to be more creative with structure and sounds."

The funky first single *Anytime* was released last year and sits alongside other album highlights including the synth-heavy *Dear Life*, the fusion of R&B and house beats on *Room For Love*, the strings-drenched title track and brutal album closer *Blame*.

The 43-year-old singer and actress from Merseyside, Melanie Chisholm first found fame in the 1990 as Mel C, AKA Sporty Spice, one of the five Spice Girls, who cause the biggest British pop phenomenon since Beatlemania.

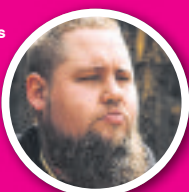
They were at the forefront of 'Girl Power' and 'Cool Britannia's British pop and youth culture seemed on the way to world domination via the pop music scene. Since going solo back in 1999, Melanie C has enjoyed two number 1 singles, six top 10 singles and more than three million album sales.

Melanie C has released a single from the new album. *Hold On* it features Alex Francis, who will also be her support at the Digbeth gig.

Rag 'n' Bone Man in tour sell-out

Rory Graham, AKA Rag 'n' Bone Man, has sold out his UK tour including his April 24 show at Birmingham's O2 Institute. That's not surprising considering his breakthrough hit *Human* is already being talked of in terms of a classic.

The success of *Human* around the globe follows years of performing. At the age of 15 he started rapping in his hometown of Uckfield and then at 19 started singing at local blues nights, then he joined Brighton hip-hop crew The Rum Committee.



70-year celebration for master of farce

Writer, director and master of farce Ray Cooney is celebrating 70 years in showbusiness. Starting out as a teenaged actor in the 1940s - "I wanted to be Olivier, or even Danny Kaye because I loved comedy," he says - he became a top comedy playwright, much in demand after his *Run For Your Wife* ran in the West End for eight years.

The celebrations of his remarkable career are under way with an updated version of one of his favourite farces *Out Of Order*, which comes on tour to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 15.

The cast includes Shaun Williamson from *EastEnders* and *Extras*, Sue Holderness (*Marlene in Only Fools & Horses*) and James Holmes (*Miranda*).

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CHOICE



Hazel Irvine

Golf: The Masters Live (BBC2, 7.30pm)
Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues. Jordan Spieth was the defending champion here last year and seemed destined to retain his crown as he led at the end of the third round, despite a one-over par 73 that saw him finish day three just one stroke clear of compatriot Smylie Kaufman. Danny Willett was tied for fifth and the leading European contender, though few would have expected the man from Sheffield to claim the first Major of his career as Spieth collapsed on day four. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Paul Azinger and Andrew Cotter.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 Mary Berry Everyday.** (R) **12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News;** Weather. **1.10 Live Davis Cup Tennis.** France v Great Britain. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.15 Film:** Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa. (2008) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Ben Stiller.
6.35 BBC News.
6.45 Regional Programme.
6.50 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a music edition of the celebrity general knowledge quiz, with contestants Mick Foster, Tony Allen, Pauline Black, Harvey, Jonathan Ansell, Faryl Smith, Lee Latchford-Evans and Michelle Heaton trying to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.
7.40 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series.
8.25 Casualty. Connie makes an effort to show how much she cares on Grace's birthday. David returns for his first day back, and Robyn worries there is something wrong with baby Charlotte.
9.15 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers for another edition of the Saturday night chat show. Filmed in front of a live studio audience, the irreverent Irish matriarch invites friends, family and celebrity guests to join her in the sitting room as she stages mischievous stunts, and gives her visitors a piece of her mind.
10.15 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Chelsea at the Vitality Stadium and Manchester City v Hull City.
11.55 Film: I Am Number Four. (2011) A teenager with special powers becomes a fugitive from aliens determined to hunt him down and destroy him. Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer.
1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.10 Film: Tinker Bell and the Secret of the Wings. (2012) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. **7.15 Film:** G-Force. (2009) Children's adventure, starring Bill Nighy. **8.35 Film:** Shark Tale. (2004) Animated comedy, with the voice of Will Smith. **10.00 Natural World:** The Bat Man of Mexico. (R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **12.00 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well.** (R) **12.30 The Best Dishes Ever.** (R) **1.00 Golf: The Masters Highlights.** **2.00 Flog It!** (R) **3.00 University Challenge.** (R) **3.30 Only Connect.** Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts the final, in which the two most successful teams vie to make connections between things that initially do not appear to be linked. Last in the series. (R) **4.00 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don starts to plant up his new fruit garden and also addresses his need for summer flowering bulbs. Carol Klein chooses the primrose as her plant of the month. (R) **4.30 Live Davis Cup Tennis.** France v Great Britain. Sue Barker introduces further coverage of the second day of the World Group quarter-final, featuring the doubles rubber at the Kindarena in Rouen. **5.30 Amazing Hotels:** Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti join the staff working in some of the most unusual hotels around the world, learning the tricks of the trade. (R) **6.30 Hotel Armadillo: Natural World.** The giant armadillo, an animal so elusive few have ever seen it wild in the Brazilian wetlands region known as the Pantanal. David Attenborough reveals how the burrows the armadillos dig create homes for hundreds of other animals. Until recently man knew virtually nothing of this species, but Arnaud Desbries, the founder of the Giant Armadillo Project, has changed all that. (R) **7.30 Golf: The Masters Live.** Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues.
12.00 Film: Ilo Ilo. (2013) A Filipino maid in Singapore becomes a firm friend to the family she works for, but a financial crisis threatens her future. Drama, with Yann Yann Yeo and Tian Wen Chen. **1.35 This Is BBC Two.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two. **3.35 An Island Parish.** Rosie Guille organises a visit from artists to capture the beauty of the island and lay preacher Karen Le Mouton considers leaving to pursue ordination training. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.10 Bottom Knockers Street.** (R) **6.25 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45 Sooty.** (R) **6.55 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **7.00 Oddbods.** (R) **7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **7.30 Scrambled!:** Scrambled! **7.35 Scrambled!:** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50 Scrambled!:** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.20 Scrambled!:** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45 Scrambled!:** Teen Timer. (R) **9.05 Scrambled!:** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25 Alphabetical.** (R) **10.25 James Martin's French Adventure.** (R) **11.25 Best Walks with a View** with Julia Bradbury. (R) **12.00 TV News;** Weather. **12.10 Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience. (1971) Comedy, starring Sid James. **2.00 ITV Racing** – Grand National Festival. Ed Chamberlin presents live coverage of four races from Aintree. **4.35 ITV Racing Live:** The Grand National. Coverage of today's race meetings.
6.10 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.20 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 You've Been Framed! Gold. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R) **7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The popular duo's entertainment show bows out once in a live finale from Disney World, Florida. The pair will be making sure to end things in a suitably extravagant manner. Co-hosts Scarlet Moffatt and Stephen Mulhern will no doubt be giving fans on the street and in the studio a chance to be part of the action, and Emilia Fox aims to bring the case of The Missing Crown Jewels to a close, as this series' comedy sketch whodunit concludes. Last in the series.
8.30 An Evening with Take That. A performance by the pop group, featuring new material and special versions of some of their most popular hits in front of an audience of fans from across Europe.
9.35 Film: King Kong. (2005) Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, with Naomi Watts.
10.35 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Film: King Kong. (2005) Concluded.
1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.45 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.10 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.25 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.25 Extreme Food.** **1.00 Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** **2.30 A Place in the Sun:** Summer Sun. (R) **3.30 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **4.30 Grand Designs.** (R) **5.35 Channel 4 News.**
6.05 Escape to the Chateau. Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree continue their renovation of a French chateau. The couple arrange to host weddings to pay for the work, and invest in solar power. (R) **7.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service.** The actress visits Hillsborough Castle, the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland. She discovers the daily routine of the household staff during a royal visit, and flicks through a scrapbook of mementos dating back to 1925, which provides an insight into how life in the royal family has changed over the years. She also meets the Queen's bugler, finds an unexpected treasure from the 1953 coronation tour and discovers how in 2012, the Queen played a simple but vital role in uniting two fractured communities in Enniskillen simply by crossing the road. (R) **8.00 Film: Battleship.** (2012) A reckless slacker joins the Navy, hoping to win the respect of his girlfriend's father, a stern admiral. He and his shipmates are put to the ultimate test as part of a force of vessels that must battle an invading fleet of powerful alien spaceships. Sci-fi adventure, starring Taylor Kitsch, Liam Neeson and Alexander Skarsgard. Edited for language and violence.
10.35 Film: Dredd. (2012) A law enforcer in a post-apocalyptic city must fight his way out of a tower block dominated by a ruthless crime lord. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey.
12.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.15 Million Pound Motors.** (R) **2.10 Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.40 Access.** **10.50 Police Interceptors:** Unleashed. (R) **11.20 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.20 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.20 On Benefits:** Life on the Dole. (R) **2.20 On Benefits:** Life on the Dole. (R) **3.20 On Benefits:** Life on the Dole. (R) **4.20 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R) **5.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents chase more than £1,700 in unpaid parking fines in south-east London, but struggle to pinpoint the debtor. Meanwhile, officers in north Wales try to recover the £2,000 owed by a tradesman to a former employer, and in Kent agents chase £8,000 owed by a jewellery shop to two former employees. (R) **7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles.** Part one of two. Kensi is taken into custody as chief suspect in the murder of Marine Sergeant Chris Black, but fancies her chances of catching the real killer herself.
8.00 NCIS. The Secretary of the Navy's daughter is kidnapped, and the NCIS crew teams up with the FBI to track the case, determine a motive and bring her the abducted girl home.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Higrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Norwich City v Reading and Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle United.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Higrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Bristol Rovers and Blackpool v Grimsby Town.
10.30 The Funny Side of Love and Sex. Johnny Vegas, Nish Kumar and Nina Wadia are among the celebrities and comedy stars offering their opinions on the many weird habits people put up with while "in relationships".
11.30 Comedy Bigmouths with Russell Kane. Ian Stone introduces a stand-up performance by the writer and comedian on topical themes.
11.55 Access.
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10 Inside St Paul's Cathedral.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Silk Road **8.00 Dust Storm** **8.45 Wild Scotland** **9.00 Film:** Department O: The Keeper Of Lost Causes (2013) **10.30 Top of the Pops:** 1983 **11.40 Psychodelic Britannia** **12.45 Totally 60s Psychodelic Rock** at the BBC **1.45 Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **5.45 FYI Daily** **5.50 Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **7.00 Scorpion** **8.00 Film:** Burlesque (2010) **9.00 FYI Daily** **9.05 Film:** Burlesque (2010) **10.35 Celebrity Juice** **11.15 Family Guy** **12.40 American Dad!** **1.40 The Cleveland Show** **2.05 Ibiza Weekender** **2.50 Teleshopping** **5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen**
ITV3
11.45 Heidi **1.50 Agatha Christie's Marple** **3.55 Rosemary & Thyme** **4.55 Endeavour** **7.00 Lewis** **11.00 Les Dawson Forever** **12.00 Colditz** **2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30 Teleshopping**
ITV4
11.30 The Virtual Grand National **2017** **12.00 Pawn Stars** **1.25 British Touring Car Championship Highlights** **2.55 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **3.55 FYI Daily** **4.00 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **6.05 It's Not Rocket Science** **7.10 Fierce** **8.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.15 FYI Daily** **9.20 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **10.00 Film:** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **11.00 FYI Daily** **11.05 Film:** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **12.05 Film:** Renegades (1989) **1.05 FYI Daily** **1.10 Film:** Renegades (1989) **2.10 Hogan's Heroes** **2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00 Teleshopping**
E4
2.30 The Goldbergs **5.00 The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film:** Transporter 2 (2005) **10.45 Gogglebox** **12.55 Rude Tube: Heroes and Villains** **2.00 Naked Attraction** **2.55 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **3.40 The Goldbergs** **4.00 Baby Daddy** **5.05 How I Met Your Mother**
Film4
1.00 Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **3.05 Dragonball Evolution** (2009) **4.45 Tooth Fairy** (2010) **6.35 Tower Heist** (2011) **9.00 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2** (2012) **11.15 An American Werewolf in London** (1981) **1.15 Isolation** (2005) **3.10 Close**

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CHOICE



Thandie Newton

Line of Duty (BBC1, 9pm)
Kate is approached by another woman who claims to have been assaulted by Michael Farmer. Combined with the new forensic evidence casting doubt over Tim Ifield, the revelation threatens to undermine AC-12 team's case, to Steve's fury. However, it gives Kate the opportunity to ingratiate herself further with the officers of Operation Trapdoor. Steve challenges Roz's husband to vouch for her whereabouts on the night Tim Ifield disappeared, and sees a new direction for the investigation when he proves evasive.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Wanted Down Under. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Countryfile Spring Diaries. (R) **3.00** Five ITV (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Galapagos. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. The team are in Holderness in the east Riding of Yorkshire, where Matt Baker and Anita Rani visit Spurn Island, an area separated from the mainland by the storm surge of 2013. Matt meets a lifeboat crew, while Anita goes in search of the island's wildlife. John Craven meets a photographer documenting farming communities on Sunk Island, while Adam Henson and Tom Heap report on dairy farming. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Pembroke Castle in South Wales, where objects brought in to be valued include a collection of intimate photographs charting the last days of the imprisoned Russian royal family in 1917, and a stick pin presented to one of George V's servants. A dairy maid demonstrates how to use a butter maker with a connection to Queen Victoria. **9.00** Line of Duty. Kate is approached by a woman who claims to have been assaulted by Michael, while Steve challenges Roz's husband to vouch for her whereabouts on the night Tim Ifield disappeared. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Sunderland v Manchester United at the Stadium of Light and Everton v Leicester City at Goodison Park. Sunderland have been at their best in the final months of the season in recent years, and need to be once again if they are to pull off an impressive escape from the relegation places. **11.30** I'm Different: Let Me Drive. The stories of two learner drivers on the autistic spectrum. **12.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 The Beechgrove Garden. **6.35** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Triathlon World Series Highlights. Action from the second round of the ITU World Triathlon Series from Gold Coast in Australia, featuring the men's and women's races. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. France v Great Britain. Sue Barker introduces coverage of the third day of the World Group quarter-final, featuring the concluding two singles rubbers at the Kindarena in Rouen. This fixture features the two nations that just missed out on last year's final, with Britain losing to Argentina and France defeated by Croatia in their semi-finals. **6.30** Golf: The Masters Live. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the fourth day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year concludes. Holder Jordan Spieth of America held the lead going into this stage in 2016, but England's Danny Willett came back from five shots down at the start of the final day last year, carding an impressive five-under-par 67 to win his maiden Major. Spieth eventually finished in second place alongside Willett's compatriot Lee Westwood on a day that was also notable for Shane Lowry, Davis Love III, and Louis Oosthuizen all making hole-in-ones on the 16th. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Paul Azinger and Andrew Cotter. **12.00** Film: The Tempest. (2010) A noblewoman with magical powers is banished to a remote island along with her daughter. She uses her abilities to dominate the mystical creatures living there and summons a storm that wrecks a ship. When the survivors come ashore, she learns one of them is her brother, who exiled her, and plans revenge. Shakespearean fantasy, starring Helen Mirren, Felicity Jones, Djimon Hounsou and Chris Cooper. **1.40** Sign Zone: Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs the debate from Gillingham in Kent, with a panel of politicians and other guests facing topical questions from the audience. (R) **2.40** Holly City. Serena faces her demons and comes to a heart-wrenching conclusion. Meanwhile, Zosia takes action when Isaac reveals his true colours, and Mo risks her professional reputation when she goes the extra mile. (R) **3.40** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** The Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Secret Dealers. (R) **11.00** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.30** TV News; Weather. **11.40** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.45** The Chase. (R) **1.45** Film: Goldfinger. (1964) **3.55** An Evening with Take That. (R) **5.00** Little Big Shots. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.10** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R) **7.00** Five Gold Rings. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which a couple takes on two friends to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor. **8.00** Vera. A body is found buried on the Northumberland moors which could be a missing teenager, stirring up tension and suspicion in her nearby rural home town. Last in the series. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.20** Lethal Weapon. Riggs and Murtaugh investigate a case surrounding the murder of a young model, and soon uncover a vicious secret behind the locked mansion gates of one of LA's wealthiest families. (R) **11.15** The Nightly Show. Best Bits. Highlights from the sixth week of the entertainment show. **11.45** Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight matches, including Wasps v Northampton Saints, Bath v Leicester Tigers and Saracens v Harlequins. **12.40** Jackpot247. **2.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.20** The Cube. (R) **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Gogglesprogs. (R) **2.30** Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Highlights. **4.45** Film: The Boxtrolls. (2014) **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild. The Grand Designs presenter sets out on a mission to find out if a simpler existence really can make people happier, beginning by travelling to a desert island in the south Pacific archipelago of Tonga to meet a British family who have quit the rat race. Karyn, Boris and their three children live in an off-grid property, with no fresh water or electricity and face regular threats from hurricanes and tsunamis. Kevin finds out how they cope with these challenges and the psychological trials of having just one another for company. (R) **8.00** Spying on the Royals. The conclusion of the two-part documentary about surveillance on Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. In the wake of the abdication, the couple took a holiday in America, unaware they were being spied on by US intelligence agencies as well as British. The outbreak of the Second World War saw them move on to Lisbon, where their dealings with a known Nazi collaborator raised concerns for MI6. **9.00** Homeland. Keane and Saul join forces to shut down the campaign of disinformation, things come to a head for Carrie and Quinn, and Max is detained by Dar. **10.05** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy words and numbers quiz, with Lee Mack and Catherine Tate taking on Sean Lock and Miles Jupp, and Tom Cooper Clarke in Dictionary Corner. (R) **12.05** Film: The Guard. (2011) **1.50** Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year. (R) **2.45** Isis and the Battle for Iraq. (R) **3.40** Unreported World. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.55** Rupert Bear. (R) **7.05** Oily the Little White Van. **7.10** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.55** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.50** Film: Free Birds. (2013) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Owen Wilson. **3.30** 5 News Weekend. **3.35** Film: Fool's Gold. (2008) Romantic comedy adventure, with Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. **5.45** Film: PS I Love You. (2007) Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. **8.00** Playful Pups Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring puppies doing bizarre and humorous things. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** When Chat Shows Go Horribly Wrong. Gloria Hunniford narrates a compilation of talk show disasters. The programme features Eamonn Holmes' infamous interview with a monosyllabic David Blaine, Spike Milligan causing mayhem on Wogan, Joan Rivers launching into a rant at guest Brigitte Nielsen, and Katrina Buchanan enduring a succession of technical issues while appearing on a live Irish chat show. **12.05** One Night With My Ex. Another three ex-couples spend a night alone together. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Goren and Eames investigate the death of a wine connoisseur. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. The use of CCTV to tackle violent crime. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. Home improvements from Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. Murali cares for an injured bird. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Britain at War: Imperial War Museums at 100 **8.00** Teenage Tommies **9.00** Horizon: Global Weirding **10.00** Radio 2 Folk Awards 2017: Highlights **11.00** Arena: Alone with Chrissie Hynde **12.30** The Story of Maths **1.30** The Bermuda Triangle: Beneath the Waves **2.30** Exposed: Magicians, Psychics and Frauds - Storyline **3.50** Close **ITV2**
11.30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.00** 2Awesome: LA Style **2.10** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.40** Mr Bean **3.50** Film: Liar Liar (1997) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55** Film: Liar Liar (1997) **5.35** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **6.35** FYI Daily **6.40** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **9.00** Film: Horrible Bosses (2011) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Horrible Bosses (2011) **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.40 Held! **1.40** Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Les Dawson Forever **11.05** Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **1.20** A Touch of Frost **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.45** On the Buses **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
2.40 Film: The Alamo (1960) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45** Film: The Alamo (1960) **5.55** Film: The Untouchables **6.55** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45** River Monsters **1.50** Fifth Gear **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
1.00 Black-ish **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** Film: Evolution (2001) **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year **12.05** Celebrity First Dates **1.10** Naked Attraction **Film4**
11.00 The Black Shield of Falworth (1954) **1.00** Outbreak Island (1995) **3.25** Avatar (2009) **6.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) **11.10** Extract (2010) **12.55** The Insider (1999) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Hummingbird, Channel 5, 11pm

A haunted special forces soldier returns to London from Afghanistan and assumes another man's identity, hoping to make a fresh start. He is drawn into the city's criminal underworld, where his skills prove valuable to the highest bidder, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, with Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. (2013)

TUESDAY

No Strings Attached, BBC1, 11.35pm

Two childhood friends run into each other and end up sleeping together. Neither of them is interested in committing to a relationship, so they agree to keep things purely sexual. But despite their best efforts, they start to fall in love. Romantic comedy, starring Natalie Portman, Ashton Kutcher, Kevin Kline and Cary Elwes. (2011)



Selma, Friday, BBC2, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A divorcee suspects nursery staff of mistreating her young daughter. When the girl's increasingly awkward behaviour arouses suspicion, the mother plants a hidden camera on the premises and discovers why the owner may hold a grudge against her. Thriller, starring Kayla Ewell. (2014)

THURSDAY

Independence Daysaster, Channel 5, 3.15pm

America's fourth of July celebrations are abruptly interrupted when Earth is invaded by hostile aliens. A maverick scientist and a small-town firefighter join forces to find and activate the only piece of technology in the world that can destroy the extraterrestrial army. Sci-fi thriller, starring Ryan Merriman. (2013)

FRIDAY

Selma, BBC2, 9pm

In 1965, amidst an atmosphere of racial unrest, civil rights campaigner Dr Martin Luther King Jr plans a peaceful march across Alabama from Selma to Montgomery. His goal is to persuade President Lyndon B Johnson to change the law, allowing black people to register to vote. Fact-based drama, starring David Oyelowo and Carmen Ejogo. (2014)

Returning series sees Peter back in the driving seat

Sometimes the best ideas are simple ones.

That's certainly the case for sitcoms anyway. Some of the greats have had a very straightforward premise. Steppe and Son was set mainly in a scrapyard, Basil and Sybil never set foot outside the grounds of Fawley Towers and Father Ted was confined (mostly) to Craggy Island.

Peter Kay's Car Share follows in their footsteps by keeping the 'action' contained inside the car of assistant supermarket manager John Redmond's red Fiat 500L.

However, it didn't take its inspiration from any of the aforementioned programmes, but rather Roger & Val Have Just Got In, an underrated gem of a bittersweet comedy which aired for two series between 2010 and 2012. Alfred Molina and Dawn French played the central characters whose lives were unravelled during the half-hour following their return home from work.

Co-writers Tim Reid and Paul

Coleman also drew from the Bafta-winning sitcom The Smoking Room, which was cancelled after its premise – discussions between co-workers using an area set aside by their company for nicotine addicts – was made redundant by the 2007 smoking ban.

Although Car Share's most famous participant is Peter Kay, it really doesn't belong to him. As mentioned above, it was Reid and Coleman's idea, although Kay and co-star Sian Gibson contribute to the scripts, and it would, admittedly, be difficult to imagine the series without them.

Gibson was largely unknown before the series aired. She first met Kay when they studied together at Salford University; he later cast her in Comedy Lab, That Peter Kay Thing, Phoenix Nights and Britain's Got the Pop Factor... It was she who brought the initial scripts to Kay, but hadn't expected to appear in it until he asked her to get involved – in fact, she hadn't auditioned for any acting roles for a year, and was working in a call

centre instead.

If anything, Gibson is the real star of the show. It's turned her into a star, offering her a chance to demonstrate her not inconsiderable comedic talents – it can only be a matter of time before she has her own vehicle (pardon the pun).

She's certainly thrilled to be back in the passenger seat: "I'm really excited that Car Share is coming back. We had so much fun making the first series and I can't wait to be Kayleigh Kitson again."

Kayleigh is, of course, a promotions rep at the store where John works, and they were thrown together by a scheme encouraging car sharing between co-workers.

Although Kay is used to success, even he was surprised by how well the show was received: "The success of the first series has been completely overwhelming," he says.

The end of the previous run saw the duo grow ever-closer, and there was a hint of romance in the air. Will they be an item when we meet up with them again?



Peter Kay's Car Share, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

Rock The Musical will be wowing the masses, and there's a performance from Matthew Bourne's The Red Shoes.

WEDNESDAY

Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience BBC2, 10pm

New series. The presenter returns to try out more alternative careers, and begins by taking to the streets of Cwmbran to learn the business of selling houses. Although we know Rhod has the gift of the gab, Gavin, his new mentor, believes happy people sell, placing extra pressure on the grumpy comedian. Will Rhod's unique approach prove to be an asset in the high-octane sales environment and make him employee of the month, or will he have the potential home buyers running scared?

THURSDAY

The World According to Kids BBC2, 8pm

New series. Children aged between six and 11 from across the UK are equipped with cameras to reveal what they really think of the world, while a number of challenges offer an intimate insight into how

they think. In the opening show, children from a debating club in Bradford, a pony club in Berkshire and a drama class in Gloucester explore their feelings of love and hate. Eight-year-old Abigail discusses her parents' impending wedding. Daniel is looking forward to seeing his father – who has been posted overseas with the Army – and Edmund just loves to hate his little sister.

FRIDAY

Last Days of Jesus Channel 5, 6.05pm

Back in 2004, gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion formed the inspiration for Mel Gibson's film, The Passion of the Christ. The movie sparked enormous controversy for how it portrayed Jesus' death, but piecing together what happened during his final week is a task that has puzzled scholars for

centuries. This documentary asks what could have triggered the crucifixion, and reveals the events that may have sparked Jesus' religious movement, including the death of John the Baptist and an increasing resentment among the people towards Rome. It also examines how power was shifting in the highest reaches of the Roman empire.

Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast Channel 5, 8pm

The presenter reaches the North Yorkshire Moors and takes to the skies for a bird's-eye view of the journey ahead from the cockpit of a glider from the Sutton Bank gliding club. Back on the ground, he admires the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey and learns the tale of power and greed that eventually brought down the monastery. In the orchards of Ampleforth Abbey, where rare heritage varieties are grown to produce juice and cider, Tony discovers a secret that evokes vivid memories of his childhood.

Lethal Weapon ITV, 9pm

As Riggs and Murtaugh examine the murder of one of LA's fashion expeditors, they follow a trail of evidence that leads them to a dangerous underground investigation led by the DEA. Clayne Crawford and Damon Wayans star.

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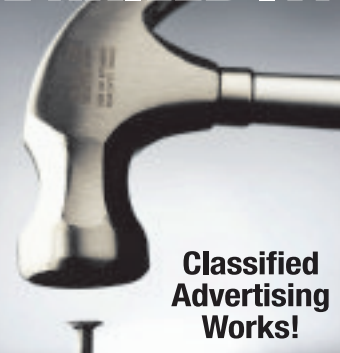
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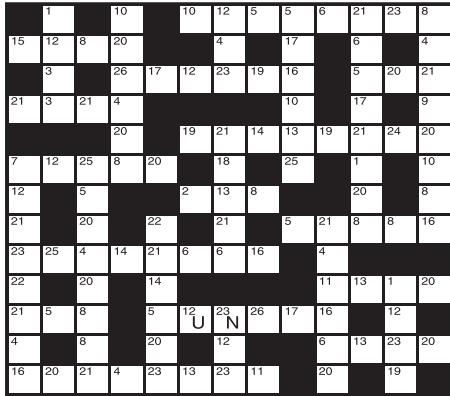
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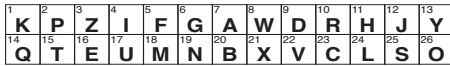
No.424

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

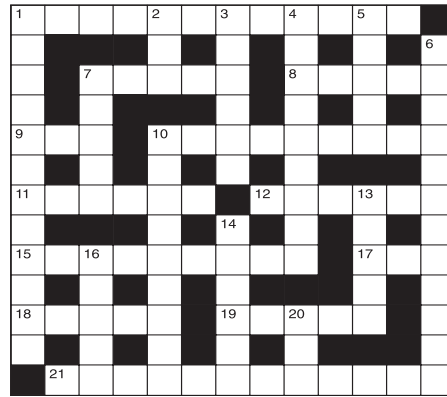
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. First job involves race at the beginning (8,4)
7. Snake on street gets crow (5)
8. The vehicle will travel as freight (5)
9. Where part of the foot points? (3)
10. Where a prisoner's feelings are registered? (5,4)
11. A knotty problem when medicine is missing (6)
12. Could become silent to give ear (6)
15. Gains fare for travelling on the ocean (9)
17. Vapour given off in making a simple substance (3)
18. No lag lengthwise (5)
19. Animal to take the wheel (5)
21. Give exercise to show practice follows preaching (3,2,7)

Down

1. Filming leading lady with heavenly body? (8, 4)
2. Beverage made from waste apples (3)
3. Character of wicked aunt again shown (6)
4. Choose to get in wrong set when supporting strike (9)
5. Be useful and set ball in play (5)
6. Strong, ill disturbed one is no moss gatherer (7, 5)
7. About fifty become more flexible and mix well (5)
10. Got a snail to show sentimental feeling (9)
13. Stripes not on an NCO's uniform (5)
14. It's out to take to court for material (6)
16. No ale when unaccompanied (5)
20. A long time in the rain (3)



Quick Clues:

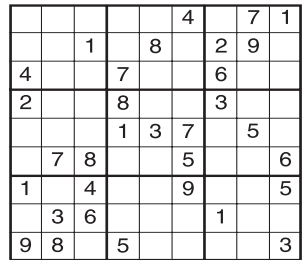
Across

1. Heartbroken (12)
7. Black (5)
8. Collier (5)
9. Trap (3)
10. Indifference (9)
11. Unmask (6)
12. Powerful (6)
15. Withdrew (9)
17. Reverential fear (3)
18. Dense (5)
19. Likeness (5)
21. Reinforced (12)

Down

1. Break up (12)
2. Globe (3)
3. Diction (6)
4. In layers (9)
5. Strained (5)
6. Sinned (12)
7. Establish (3,2)
10. Liberate (9)
13. Declaim (5)
14. Twine (6)
16. Corrupt (5)
20. Tree (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

2	6	8	1	7	9	4	5	3
5	3	4	2	6	8	9	7	1
1	7	9	3	5	4	8	2	6
6	8	1	4	9	5	7	3	2
3	2	5	7	8	1	6	9	4
4	9	7	6	3	2	5	1	8
8	5	3	9	1	6	2	4	7
9	1	2	8	4	7	3	6	5
7	4	6	5	2	3	1	8	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Advance; 8 Osiers;
 9 Avarice; 10 Filter; 11 Detour; 12 Negative;
 18 Medicine; 20 Groove; 21 Plates; 22 Intense;
 23 Entree; 24 Seconds. Down: 1 Roofing;
 2 Vintage; 3 Ardent; 5 Dividend; 6 Aerate;
 7 Cactus; 13 Immersed; 14 Distort; 15 Measles;
 16 Fringe; 17 Toledo; 19 Island.
 QUIZ - Across: 4 Dispute; 8 Emblem; 9 Assault;
 10 Foe; 11 Afloat; 12 Devolver; 18 Free-will;
 20 Debate; 21 Latent; 22 Javelin; 23 Person;
 24 Century. Down: 1 Perfidy; 2 Observe;
 3 Tenant; 5 Instance; 6 Prance; 7 Talent;
 13 Inferior; 14 Disease; 15 Blatant; 16 Decade;
 17 Patent; 19 Elated.

Quiz

1. What was captured from Spain by admiral George Rooke in 1704?
2. In which sport is the annual Stanley Cup contested?
3. With which instrument is Keith Jarrett associated?
4. Which Bond film features a Louis Armstrong hit song?
5. What do the letters UHT stand for?
6. Of which country is Karachi the largest city?
7. In Greek mythology, who tried to bring Eurydice back from the dead?
8. Niacin belongs to which group of vitamins?
9. Which dog was first bred as the 'imperial lion dog'?
10. Which English garden designer coined the term 'landscape gardening'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Hendrik Verwoerd; 2 Trampoline; 3 Carson City; 4 A deer; 5 George Martin; 6 Literature; 7 Lincolnshire; 8 Thomas Edison; 9 The RAC Rally; 10 Vaclav Havel.

Niner: NOURISHED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3755478
48925
7817371645

gives a bad person,
gives a good person,
gives a person.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Note that new Tenerife cool vibe

TENERIFE'S sleepy landscape is changing. If you head to the island, you may need to pack your party heels to investigate the island's cool new vibe. . .

Eyeing up Elton John's multi-coloured feathery showman costume and a skimpy gold Britney Spears number, I wonder if I've underdressed for dinner.

These 100-plus pieces of memorabilia are all part of the furniture at Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife, where music legends are brought to life at every turn. Tracy Chapman lyrics line the wall, countless iconic instruments dangle from ceilings, and even the disabled toilet sign has been tweaked to carry a guitar and 'rock on' hand symbol.

HRH Tenerife opened on the sunny southern coast near Adeje late last year, and true to its name, it's rocking the sleepy side of Tenerife as we know it. Think live gigs and DJ sessions with a set list to rival Ibiza, played out on a 5,000-capacity stage boasting a view of the Atlantic.

Music makers can upgrade their DIY jam sessions in the Rock Royalty penthouse suites, or dial in room service for a pop-up studio Fender electric guitar and amp (headphones provided so you don't wake the neighbours).

OBSESSED

Popstar Shakira's T-shirt is displayed right outside my hotel room and I become obsessed with a Beatles photography exhibit – a collection of 11 super-cool vacation snaps from 1963 taken in Tenerife before the band rocketed to fame. A month later, Please Please Me went to number one for 30 weeks.

We experience the hotel's first ever monthly Children Of The 80s open-air night where we dance (jacket-free in December) to live performances of Black Box's Ride

Time to relax at the lovely pool bar at Hard Rock



Dancing along at opening night of Children of the 80s



on Time and C+C Music Factory's Gonna Make You Sweat in a sea of neon leotards and OTT Eighties wigs. It doesn't feel anything like the Tenerife my mum told me about. . .

Tenerife's southern coast revamp has seen a boost to its nightlife in recent years, with hotspots like the lively Monkey Beach Club and the chic Papagayo Beach Club, both at Troya Beach where you can watch the Canarian sunset with cocktails – and then party on after-dark.

But it isn't all dancing 'til the small hours in Tenerife. On our visit, we blow away the morning-after hangover

blues with a visit to the breathtaking Teide National Park, where we explore the stark volcanic landscape that attracts five million visitors per year. So good in fact, it's been the backdrop for films like Clash of the Titans and Fast & Furious 6.

My head for heights is challenged when we climb 3,718 metres above sea level in a cable car practically to the summit of Mount Teide, Spain's highest peak, where Tenerife's temperatures suddenly drop, along with the air pressure. The trade-off is the breathtaking, Instagram-worthy views. The scene back at HRH

Tenerife isn't all monochrome mosaic pools with underwater music (though that is pretty epic). Beach fans will find both volcanic black sand and soft white sand in the secluded surrounding bays, if you ever want a break from the hotel's playlist.

Tenerife's newest uber-hotel (two tower blocks bathed in flickering lights at night) is different to its global sister hotels, insists Matt Watts, director of music and marketing for Hard Rock International: "It's not 'in your face' like our Vegas hotel. The vibe is more feel-good and subdued."

LISA HAYNES



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27st Nov Valkenburg Christmas Markets and Caves, 5 days only	£296.00

IN CONCERT!

7th June Rod Stewart £149.00

17th June Cliff Richard £99.00

LATE ADDITIONS

24th Sept The Shard from £47.50

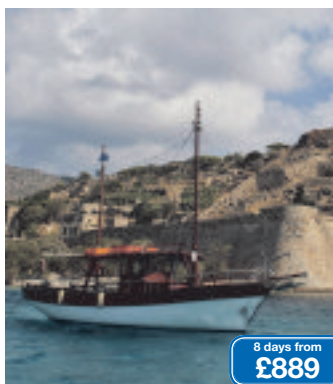
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Walking - Andalucia's Eastern Coast

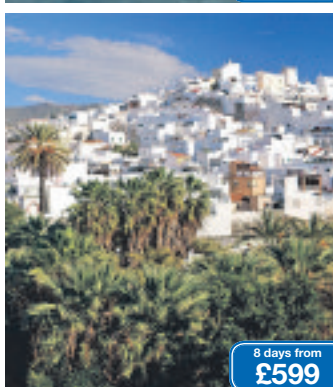
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Glorious hills and mountains, pretty beaches and coves, the azure waters of the southern Mediterranean and a wonderful sub-tropical climate – what else do you need for a walking holiday in the sunshine? Andalucia's eastern coast (known as the Costa Tropical) is all this. Great walking and a visit to magical Granada too!

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Attractive cottage in popular area is full of character

Attractive and distinctive, Wisteria Cottage, 5 Garden Walk, Lower Gornal, oozes character and charm from its excellent location in this popular area.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £229,950. Viewings are encouraged in order to fully appreciate its overall size, layout and features.

As the name suggests, the cottage is adorned at the front with Wisteria and there is also a Eucalyptus tree, walling and a hedge with a picket gate giving access to the front canopy entrance.

This opens into a generous dining kitchen with wall/base cupboards having breakfast bar as well as ample table space, plus an oven and hob. Leading on from here is an arched glazed door and step to a stunning split level sitting room. The upper level has the stairs leading off with the areas being defined by a beam and balustrade rail. Further steps lead to the lower level with a feature fireplace having a wood burner and the space is further enhanced by oak flooring.

On the first floor there are three good bedrooms with the main bedroom having built-in wardrobes, while the bathroom has a white suite also including a large shower cubicle. The cottage has gas central heating, a small courtyard-style walled garden to the side and a small side driveway.

In more detail the dining kitchen has splash-back tiling and tiled flooring. The split level sitting room has a feature beam and balustrade rail defining the two areas. It also has a recessed fireplace with wide beam mantle, raised quarry tiled hearth and wood burner.

Bedroom one has a built-in wardrobe with three sliding mirror doors and an adjacent double top cupboard. There are two further bedrooms, with bedroom three having a stair head wardrobe. The bathroom has a white suite, a bath, large shower cubicle, a designer vertical radiator and a heated towel rail.

The courtyard garden has a block paved patio, a small lawn, wall on two sides, gate to front and with steps to raised area with a shed and a driveway.

LOWER GORNAL £229,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: The Lee Shaw Partnership

TEL: 01384 287622

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KEY FEATURES

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Charm & character

Popular location

Spacious

Generous dining kitchen



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WOMBOURNE, Millfields Way

An OUTSTANDING and SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME with LARGE DRIVEWAY, DOUBLE GARAGE and a sunny rear garden. Offering a SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED layout, all of which has been recently and EXPENSIVELY RE-FITTED throughout, including FOUR RECEPTION ROOMS and FIVE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, master with ENSUITE DRESSING ROOM, WALK IN WARDROBE and SHOWER ROOM. EPC TBA

£525,000



DUDLEY, Breamore Crescent, Earls Keep

A gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed detached residence in exemplary order upon favoured Earls Keep development. Accommodation includes hall, cloak room, store, lounge, separate dining room, upgraded kitchen with granite work surfaces and many integrated appliances, utility room. Four generous bedrooms, en suite, bathroom, garage, delightful rear garden. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £277,500, NOW £274,950



DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

"PENTHOUSE STYLE" SECOND FLOOR PRINCIPAL BEDROOM SUITE! Enhanced/enlarged, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with DISTANT VIEWS comprising; hall, cloaks, 22'10" lounge/dining room with CONSERVATORY beyond, kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms (one with shower room en suite), bathroom. Second floor 22 ft by 17 ft principal bedroom suite with centre piece 'jacuzzi'. Garage, garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £249,995



SEDGLEY, Dumbleberry Avenue, Brownswall estate

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! Enviably situated, gas centrally heated, gas centrally heated & double glazed DETACHED requiring sympathetic updating in favoured district occupying a large plot comprising; porch, hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, lobby, lengthy utility room/store, three bedrooms, bathroom, w.c. Large (24 ft) garage, good sized secluded rear garden. EPC: F SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £240,000



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

A gas centrally heated, double glazed detached dormer style bungalow (with gated driveway access) within walking distance of country park, Post Office, day-to-day shops etc. comprising; hall, stylish kitchen, lounge, double bedroom three (alternative dining room), bathroom. Staircase up to landing with two double bedrooms (with equal access to en suite shower room), 19 ft garage, gardens. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £232,000



UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT - Nearing completion; SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated (underfloor & radiator), double glazed DETACHED house comprising THREE BEDROOMS (one with shower room en suite), bathroom, and to the Lower Ground Floor a cloakroom together with magnificent 25'9" through kitchen/ living/dining room THREE CAR PARKING TO REAR. SAP SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £225,000



SEDGLEY, Southerndown Road, Brownswall estate

ENLARGED gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached occupying a wide corner plot. Consistently maintained over the years the property now offers further potential and comprises; porch, hall, separate dining room, enlarged 17'8" lounge and a brick/UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, sitting room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, TWO GARAGES, further parking, garden. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £210,000



GORNAL WOOD, Eaton Crescent

Situated on a fantastic corner position in the extremely popular GORNAL WOOD area of Dudley this DETACHED bungalow offers so much. With entrance hallway and garage, this DETACHED BUNGALOW also benefits from L-shaped open lounge-diner, kitchen, bathroom, TWO BEDROOMS central heating, driveway and enveloped by low-maintenance gardens all around the property. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950



SEDGLEY, Brownswall Road

Attractive, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & double glazed semi detached that has been tremendously enhanced set in favoured district close to open fields & many day-to-day amenities comprising; porch, hall, lounge with bay (and open fire), dining room, kitchen, pantry, lobby. Three bedrooms, refitted bathroom, separate toilet. Lengthy 23'10" garage, block paved foregarden & sheltered rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £187,500



LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Principal house (1,750 sqft approx.), Large garage (300sq ft) with FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS and set within walking distance of village, this is a wonderful spacious family home. Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed accommodation provides; hall, fitted cloaks, two reception halls (formerly separate rooms), Hugh through breakfast kitchen and utility room. Four generous bedrooms, bathroom. DOUBLE GARAGE/LARGE CARPORT/GATED PARKING, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY



GORNAL WOOD, Brick Kiln Lane

Situated in this popular area of Gornal, this detached property is not only on an IMPOSING DOUBLE PLOT but also offers huge potential for improvement! As well as having entrance hallway, guest W/C, L-shaped through-lounge, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom with separate W/C, detached double garage and ample parking to front with substantial enclosed garden to rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Kings Road

Fantastic end of terrace property set in the much sought after area of Sedgley. Retaining many of its original features and being uniquely presented, this TWO BEDROOM home also boasts gas central heating, THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, modern fitted kitchen, LOFT ROOM, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden which offers secure off roads parking. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £310,000

Offers in the region of £299,950

Offers in the region of £134,950



WOLVERHAMPTON, Farrington Road, Ettingshall Park

Gas centrally heated, double glazed, conscientiously maintained semi detached with lengthy garden backing on to "Beacon" open space with tremendous distant views comprising: porch, hall, 25' through living/dining room, pantry, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, block paved driveway, garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Oakland Drive

Well maintained SEMI DETACHED located in the desirable area of LOWER GORNAL & benefiting from gas central heating & double glazing, this EXTENDED property also boasts hall, living room, dining area, conservatory, breakfast-kitchen, integral garage, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, delightfully tended enclosed rear garden, good-sized driveway and garden to front. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC: C SEDGLEY.



SEDGLEY, Dingle View

Taylors Estate Agents are delighted to offer for sale this family home situated on the much sought after Dingle View in Sedgley. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating as well as corner position, this property also boasts porch, hall, living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Front and rear gardens, detached garage with driveway. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC: D SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Bird Street

Spacious, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow nearing completion. ENVIABLY SITUATED within reasonable walking distance of the village & comprising: entrance vestibule, hall, kitchen with various integrated appliances, living/dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking to front, brick store. PLANS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AGENT'S SEDGLEY OFFICE. SAP: TBA



SEDGLEY, The Ridgeway

An appreciably spacious, gas centrally heated semi detached for improvement in favoured neighbourhood with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but now requires updating comprising: entrance porch, hallway, separate dining room, through living room, rear lobby, pantry, kitchen, utility/store, outer porch, outbuilding. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £185,000

Offers in the region of £184,950

Offers in the region of £174,950

Offers in the region of £165,000

New price WAS £165,000, NOW £159,950



UPPER GORNAL, The Paddock

Gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed traditional style semi set at head of cul-de-sac (just off Clarence Street) this much improved home comprises entrance porch, reception hall, walk in cloaks, under stair store, 23'9" through living/dining room, refitted kitchen, upgraded utility room; three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), tiled upgraded bathroom, large garage, recently block paved foregarden, sheltered rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Upper Ettingshall Road

FANTASTIC - Exceptionally stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow that has been transformed in recent years by present vendors to a stunning specification comprising: hall, refitted kitchen leading into a transverse lounge/orangery addition, Three bedrooms, shower room. Lengthy garden. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC: D SEDGLEY



WOLVERHAMPTON, Braden Road, Penn

Occupying an attractive corner position, this semi-detached property is located in the popular Penn area of Wolverhampton. Benefiting from front and rear gardens, this THREE BEDROOM home offers lots of improvement potential and consists of living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, enclosed side and rear garden with drive and garden to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: E SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

EXCEPTIONALLY STYLISH gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached 'miners cottage' that has been significantly modernised in recent years carefully retaining many fine period features. Situated in favoured/convenient district comprising: hallway, lounge with cast 'living flame' fireplace, store, refitted kitchen and a CONSERVATORY beyond. Two bedrooms (principle with an extensive range of built in units) bathroom. Potential parking LENGTHY REAR GARDEN. EPC: E SEDGLEY



LANESFIELD, Ward Grove

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING comprehensively renovated, freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow in convenient district. Superb accommodation provides refitted 'hub of the home' kitchen with a fine range of units (various integrated appliances), reappointed shower room, lounge with bay, walk in store, two double bedrooms, gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £154,950 NOW £149,950

New price WAS £154,950 NOW £149,950

Offers in the region of £139,950

Offers in the region of £139,500

Offers in the region of £129,950



DUDLEY, Corser Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Within walking distance of Milking Bank, and all associated amenities, a gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler), uPVC double glazed THREE BEDROOM intermediate 'starter home' in popular district briefly comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, transverse dining kitchen with bay. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Parking to front (for one car), and good size sheltered rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

WAS £119,950, NOW £114,950



SEDGLEY, Lime Road

A conscientiously maintained majority gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' with further potential. Set in a popular/convenient district the accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, store, lounge, kitchen, dining room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, through lobby, outer porch, two stores, WC, off road parking, garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £112,000



LOWER GORNAL, Temple Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated (combi boiler), uPVC double glazed EXTENDED intermediate terrace for improvement. Conveniently situated within walking distance of the village, the accommodation includes: living room, 17'8" dining kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, cellar. Two bedrooms. Garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £97,500



COSELEY, Johnson Street, Hurst Hill

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Attractively presented terraced property situated in the popular Hurst Hill area & benefiting from central heating and double glazing this ideal first time buyers home also has living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £95,000



WOODSETTON, Regent Street

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PRESENTED - Meticulously maintained gas centrally heated UPVC double or single glazed first floor flat in quiet 'backwater'. Tremendously enhanced by present vendors the accommodation provides; hall (incorporating caravan style seating which will convert into a temporary double bed), lounge (with living flame feature gas fire), refitted kitchen, double bedroom (with two double wardrobes), refitted shower room (former bathroom). Shared grounds. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £68,000



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Three-bedroomed semi on popular estate has no chain

This three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Poplar Green, Dudley, lies on a popular estate and has off-road parking to the front and a garden with a patio to the rear.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £108,000 with no chain.

With double glazing and central heating, internally the

DUDLEY

£108,000

accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, dining kitchen (with access to the lounge), a utility room and a downstairs WC. There is also a storage room.

Upstairs has three good-sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/ WC.

In need of a sympathetic renovation, this is an ideal property for first-time buyers or investors.

For further information contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net

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Modern first-floor flat in established location

UPPER GORNAL

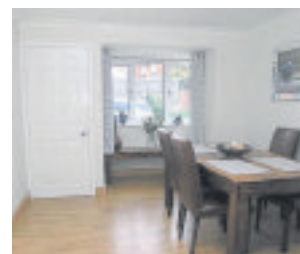
£65,000

This one-bedroomed flat for sale in Jockey Fields, Upper Gornal, Dudley, is a modern first-floor property in an established location.

Also having a study/nursery room, it is for sale through Wakeman at £65,000.

Its accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a landing, a living room, a kitchen, bedroom, a study/nursery room, and communal grounds. The property can be found midway between Sedgley and Dudley, being convenient for a wide range of amenities.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999.



Deceptively spacious home on the market

ROWLEY REGIS

£275,000

<<<

Delightfully presented, this deceptively spacious home in Britannia Gardens, Rowley Regis lies at the head of a cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Taylors at £275,000. Featuring gas central heating and oak-style double glazed windows, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance vestibule, a good size dining room, a study/office, a cloakroom with a WC, an excellent sized lounge, a large double glazed conservatory, a most attractive re-fitted kitchen, a fitted utility, a four decent bedrooms, an en suite shower room, a very attractive house bathroom, driveway parking and attractive rear garden.

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Improved property on extremely popular estate

DUDLEY
£324,950 <<<

Enviously situated on an imposing corner plot, this lovingly improved and extended property in Cowley Drive lies on the extremely popular Milking Bank development in Dudley.

New to the property market, the home is for sale through Taylors at £324,950.

This modern detached property has so much to offer and is an ideal family home, said a spokesman for the selling agent.

Having gas central heating and double glazing, the accommodation of this five-bedroom house also benefits from an entrance hall, a well-appointed transverse living room, a sitting/family room, a dining room, a kitchen-diner, a good-sized utility room, a ground floor shower room, a master bedroom with an en-suite, a walk-in wardrobe to second bedroom and a fitted family bathroom.

Call 01902 880888.



Well-presented three-bed semi with no chain

WOODSETTON
£139,950

Ready to move straight in to, this well presented and extended traditional three-bedroom semi-detached property in Flavell Street, Woodsetton, Dudley, is for sale through Wakeman at £139,950 with no chain.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a storm porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, lounge, living room, breakfast area, kitchen, landing, bathroom, gardens, parking and a garage.

In more detail this home occupies a level plot in a popular and well established residential area, between Sedgley and Dudley. It is well placed for a wide range of amenities and is within easy commuting distance of most major West Midland commercial centres.

For further information call 01384 459999.



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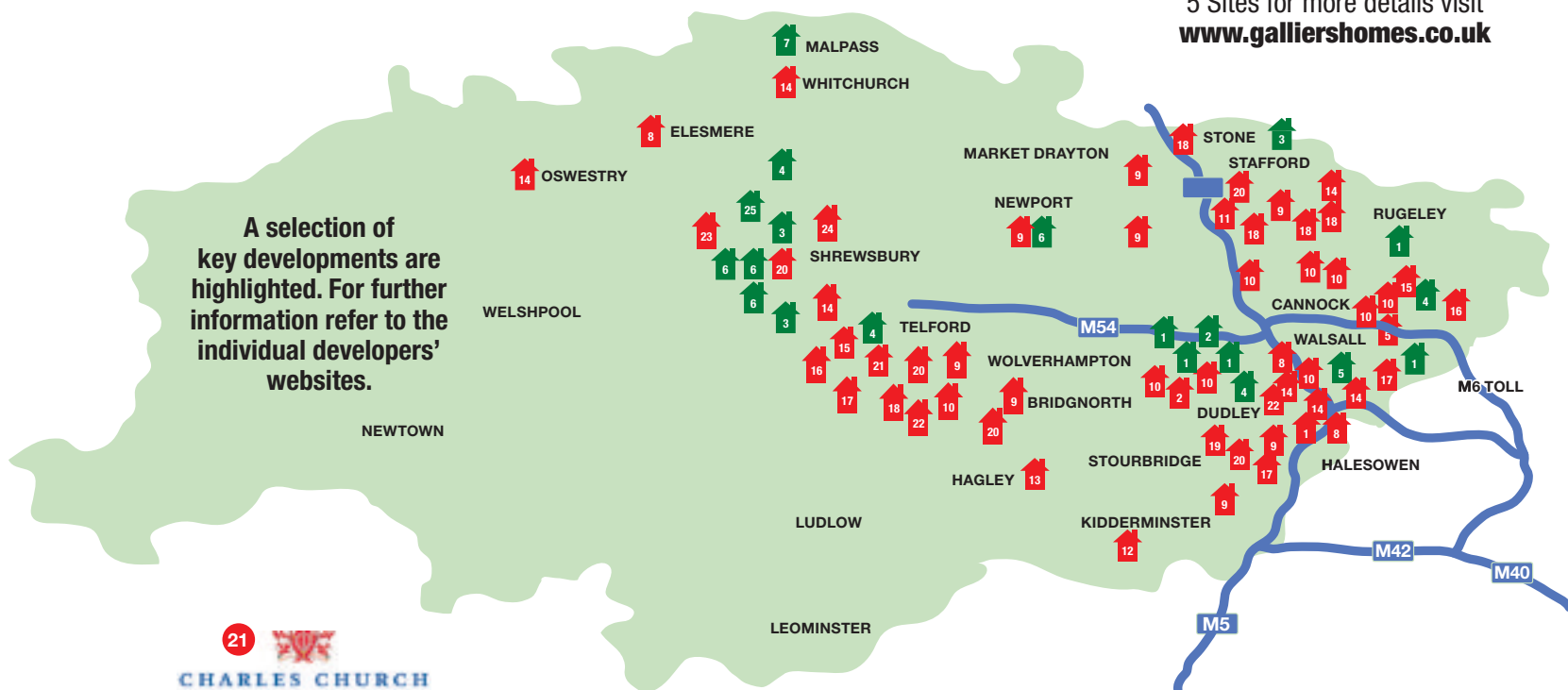


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9



14



Birthday bonanza at Dudley Motor Co

Commercial feature

Eighteen years is something to celebrate. And for Dudley Motor Company's general manager, Rob Gilbert, he's so happy that he wants to give you the presents!

For four days only starting this Thursday, they have been given permission to offer their customers a brand-new Vauxhall, 17-plate car at heavily reduced prices – the savings are so substantial that it's Rob himself who will have to personally sign off each of the amazing value deals on offer. And if you are looking for a used Vauxhall model, there are great reductions there too!

Dudley Motor Company is a family-run business that have been caring for the motoring needs of the people of the West Midlands since 1953. They give a personal service whether you want a used vehicle or a new car from Vauxhall's fantastic range. They are the local company with main dealer aftersales support.

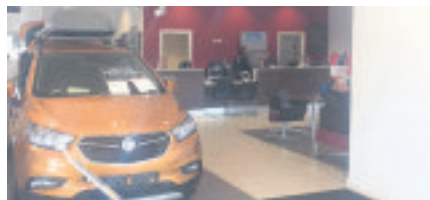
There's no better time to be visiting Dudley Motor Company to buy your new or used Vauxhall. You'll want to talk to Rob and the team, because during the event, they will be able to tailor a deal to exactly match your requirements.

For new cars like the new Vauxhall Mokka X, where the 'X' stands for extra height, extra muscle, extra traction, everything that gives you that extra exciting, feel good factor.

And for this birthday weekend there is a whole string of extra options available, such as deposit contributions of up to £2,400 and up to five years 0 per cent APR finance, along with a package of other giveaways that includes free Diamondbrite Paint Protection



The family-run business gives personal service



Don't miss out on these great offers

and much more. All-in-all, there are up to total savings of £3499.

The team at Dudley Motor Company have many years of experience in the automotive industry. All their used cars are hand-picked and undergo a comprehensive pre-sales check. And on this birthday weekend bonanza, buying a used car means you still

qualify for a free Sat Nav, Diamondbrite Paint Protection, UK and European Roadside Assistance, plus two free vehicle Valets per year for three years. In all this is a total saving of £923.

Rob Gilbert has been with Dudley Motor Company for 18 years now. He knows that they have a reputation for high quality cars

and great customer service that means you can buy from them with real confidence.

And with all these savings, he wants to make sure it's the best birthday celebration yet.

Don't miss out on these fantastic offers... Dudley Motor Company's 18th Birthday is rapidly approaching and they want you to join in the celebrations and enjoy the never to be

repeated 18th Birthday amazing value new and used car offers, visit the showroom this weekend.

● Address: Dudley Motor Company, Trindle Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 7AZ. Telephone: 01384 454 100. Website: www.dudleymotorco.co.uk



17-plate cars are being offered at heavily reduced prices for four days

It's our Birthday You get the presents!

You are invited to Dudley Motor Company's

18th Birthday Sale

Thursday 6th to Sunday 9th April

Join us for four days of amazing 18th Birthday offers such as – brand New and Used Vauxhall cars at **heavily reduced prices**, up to **5 years 0% APR finance***, deposit contributions of up to **£2,400** and we're giving away a package of **FREE** extras that is worth up to **£3,499**.

USED OFFERS FREE OF CHARGE	SAVE**
FREE Sat Nav	£199
Free Diamondbrite Paint Protection	£299
Free Roadside Assistance (UK & Euro)	£125
Free 2 x Valets per year for 3 years	£300
Total Saving	£923

NEW OFFERS FREE OF CHARGE	SAVE**
An EXTRA £500 off	£500
Free Diamondbrite Paint Protection	£299
Up to £2400 deposit contribution*	£2400
Free 2 x Valets per year for 3 years	£300
Total Saving	£3499



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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. **Taken from average retail prices of products and services across the range. Offers available between 06/04/17 - 09/04/17 inclusive. Vehicles must be registered by 30/04/17. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. *Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply, please ask for full details. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of publication E&OE.



The ST Line is one of nine different trim levels

New Ford Fiesta costs less than the outgoing model

By James Parker

The new Ford Fiesta will cost £1,000 less than the current model when it goes on sale in the UK in the spring at £12,715.

The manufacturer is bringing back a base-model Style trim – a car that was deleted from the last generation line-up – slashing the entry model price of the UK's best-selling car, which is currently on sale in dealerships from £13,795.

A spokesman for Ford said: "The Fiesta has been the best-selling car in the UK for eight years in a row and we are confident that will continue with the new model. By reintroducing the Style trim we've been able to make the Fiesta even more attractive."

At the other end of the scale, Ford will introduce a posh Vignale model to its Fiesta line-up for the first time – a model that will cost more than a Focus.

In pricing details, the firm revealed the top-of-the-range Vignale will weigh in at £20,575 for a 1.5-litre TDCI. A Ford Focus with 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine costs £19,495.

The Vignale has 17-inch alloys, unique exterior body

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At the top of the tree is the Vignale

styling and front grille, leather interior, heated seats and steering wheel, panoramic roof and rearview camera as standard.

The Fiesta will come in nine different trim levels in total – three of which are new. These are Style, Zetec, B&O Play Zetec Series, Titanium, B&O Play Titanium Series, Titanium X, ST Line, ST Line X and the Vignale.

The B&O Play series – on Zetec and Titanium models – have special interior and exterior colour schemes of mint and copper, while the B&O Play system will offer an enhanced audio system with 10 speakers and a boot-mounted sub-woofer. It also boasts an eight-inch floating tablet-inspired touchscreen. They start at £15,165.

The most popular model will be the £14,215 Zetec, which currently accounts for 58 per cent of sales. This comes with 15-inch alloys, Quickclear windscreen and the SYNC 3 DAB radio system with a 6.5-inch touchscreen. Apple CarPlay comes as standard.

"With so many new Fiesta faces coming this year, including B&O Play editions for music lovers and the luxurious Vignale execution, the Fiesta is set to stay at number one," said Andy Barratt, chairman and managing director of Ford of Britain.

Prices for the sporty Fiesta ST model – which will feature a new 200bhp 1.5-litre EcoBoost three-cylinder engine – will be announced in the autumn.



The B&O Play Titanium starts at £15,165

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was £1299 now £599 (FREE DELIVERY)

Telephone: 0121 557 6885

BFC FURNITURE FACTORY

OUTLET STORE

UNIT 9, CONEYREE TRADING ESTATE, CONEYREE ROAD,

DUDLEY DY4 7RG

OPENING HOURS: MON-SAT 10AM-6PM SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

A DOUBLE BED, with deep mattress and base, with headboard, used in spare bedroom. £35.
Telephone 07707 330033.

QUALITY 3 piece suite, brown fabric, excellent condition. £195 ono. **teak Dining table**, £40. **Drop leaf table** £10. £0121 559 3291.

TWO SEATER SETTES, 2, with arm covers, include pouffes, as new, pale green and apricot fabric. £70. 01384 240689 or 07955 614842.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

Any gauge or age

Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Faithful/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.

01384 836219 / 07891 713547

thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

“I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract”

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call 01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

ALAN JONES THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!

Est. 1955 - 59 years at the top! Recommended by thousands

Genuine, honest, 100% reliable

WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO

Call: 01902 855085

ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Free-view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers

Autos Fridges Vacs and Microwaves.

Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs.

Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers.

12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

kitchens & bathrooms

KITCHEN UNITS
Ivory kitchen, brown laminate worktops, with stainless steel sink, double electric oven, gas hob, see photo. Excellent condition. Can be seen fitted. Buyer collects.
£325 ono.
01562 510165.

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439055
01922 716029
07833 738857

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Est. 1955 - 59 years at the top! Recommended by thousands

Genuine, honest, 100% reliable

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Call: 01902 855085

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alarms/security

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Supplied and Fitted £195

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

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A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers

Autos Fridges Vacs and Microwaves.

Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs.

Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers.

12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

domestic cleaning

CLEAN FOR YOU (midlands ltd)

Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.

Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.

Call Anita on: 07954 163 804.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER

Blockages cleared fast.

Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN

Concrete Imprinting

• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING

FREE QUOTES

01902 489633 (day)

or 01902 604187 (eve)

driveways/patio cleaning

LOW COST DRIVEWAYS AND POWER WASHING

NO CASH UPFRONT!

Old driveways restored or built from scratch

Driveways powerwashed. Block paving re-sanded & sealed, exterior walls and all hard surface areas.

01902 824661 or 07513 678259

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electric

cal. 01902 842739. 07783 471949.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING

SPECIAL OFFER

10 days of quality fencing. concrete posts, gravel boards. £495

Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.

0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656

Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm

Sat 8am - 12noon

83 Portway Rd. W.bury

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

www.portwayfencing.co.uk

ACE FENCING. A better quality

small. Supply only. Free quote. 31

Bank St. WV10 9DU. 01902 723910

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

“I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!”

Classified Ads

01902 317878 | classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

roofing

New Roofs, Slating, Tiling, GRP Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings uPVC Fascia Cladding.

**0121 602 0346
07904 736165**

OVERHAUL ROOFING

25% OFF

SF ROOFING & GUTTERING

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing, guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED

Call Sean 01902 629158 8am to 6pm

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

S T ROOFING All roofing work carried out. Call: 01902 884705 / 07841 842824

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE, FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.

Please call:
07966 281957

A CHEAPER REMOVAL

SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS.
FULLY INSURED. 7 days.
**01902 89 49 16
07807 77 30 35**

Student/OAP Discounts

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 45409/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

showers

SHOWERS

Supplied/Fitted
Replaced/Repaired
Bath to Shower Conversions
Call James for a FREE quote.
07908 052470 / 01902 758494

skip hire

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE

Mini, midi and large skips
GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE

**01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845**

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE

Save £££s

All size skips and all areas covered.
(Some day delivery faster than a phone call!)

Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!

No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years. 01384 232359.

AT M&M SKIPS

Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service

Freephone
**0800 619 0189
07904 915016**

STONES SKIP HIRE

0121 557 1480 / 07866 721875
www.stonestskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

BILSTON UPHOLSTERY A suite/ chair re-upholstered / repaired as new. Free Quotes: 01902 404698.

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiqu es. 01902 688644 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

GAZING AND STABLE £20pw Westcote area.
07956 824381.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR GUNS, VINTAGE/ ANTIQUE GUNS, SHOT GUNS, TAXIDERMY- BIG BORE GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED. MATCH AIR RIFLES WANTED.

07968 624202

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

RGT Wolverhampton @RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you are following to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

AMERICAN COCKER Spaniel, 1 dog, very loving and cute, ready to go now, vaccinated, microchipped, wormed, Mom and Dad can be seen. £450. 07974 749908.

BORDER COLLIE, dog, 5 months old, genuine reason for sale, £200. Telephone 07731 563042.

ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE

1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall. WS4 1LN.
01922 627013.
Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.
Sundays - Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm
Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

DUDLEY SHOP Gornal Wood High St. 650 sqft. Currently used as Tanning Salon, Modern interior, £600 per month 07852 225618

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

plant, machinery & tools

R AND J SITE SERVICES LTD

Grab Hire, Plant Hire Groundwork and all types of aggregates. Anywhere in the Midlands.

Call 01384 211420 / 07793 079103
randjsiteservices@hotmail.com

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS

It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

A 1 BED FURNISHED FLAT Tettenhall area.CH. No DSS 07976 263435 / 01902 700 028.

A 1 BED FURNISHED FLAT Farnor: 07976 263435 / 01902 700 028.

NETHERTON AREA 2-bed house, DSS welcome, 30 plus, no pets, deposit required. 07780 704435.

ONE BED flat CH, very private, Park-fields area, £55pw. Dnss considered Deposit required. 07968 326578. 07487 647047.

ONE BEDROOM flat, first floor, Bealeys Ave, Long Knowle. Dss accepted. 0121 2969866.

ROOMS NETHERTON Refurbished with Parking. From £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk Double inc bills. No DSS: 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME! For Your House CASH

You agree the price, we buy the house.

NO AGENTS FEES • FREE SOLICITORS • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500** **30 yrs**

* subject to terms www.black-countryhomes.co.uk *

Wolverhampton properties

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE

UP TO £25,000 We can buy your house in 2 days

CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)

Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition

0800 389 6788 **days**

01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!

I pay 100% of purchase price

Call now for the best price on your house

Guaranteed offer* • Free solicitors • Terms apply
Any condition • No fees*

24 hours Free phone or landline **0800 783 2822** **01384 226086**

Dewmark Homes

pink run by women

sell quick

- No Fees*
- Any property
- Any condition
- Free confidential service
- Any area*
- Repossessions stopped
- Deceased estates
- Free confidential service

Call free 24 hours 0800 044 8109 01922 689023

Need to sell your home fast?

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

MARION PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

01384 930 979 **OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7**

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

*Terms and Conditions apply

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Charges / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."

Black Country Homes

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Private Investor

We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid.

Telephone **07756 022973**

straight forward investment solutions

LOOK WE BUY ANY HOUSE

national homeowners helpline.co.uk

in a mess? talk in confidence

we can help WE PAY MORE ANY AREA ANY CONDITION

24-7 **0800 085 7499**
24-7 **0121 308 7786**

STOP WE PAY MORE!

100% every time* Any Property*
Free Solicitors No Fees* Any Condition*

01902 628 047

* subject to terms

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

7 Jobs

employment wanted

WE BUY ANY HOUSE CASH

CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7days
0800 246 1047

WE OFFER £20,000 CASH ADVANCE

NO Fees & FREE Solicitors • We Buy Any Area & Any Condition

www.ukfastsale.co.uk

flats for sale

MCCARTH & STONE COMPLEX

RETIREMENT FLAT FOR SALE

Exmouth, Devon.
One bed.
Could be ideal Holiday home. Newly refurbished kitchen and bathroom.
Walking distance to sea front. Warden controlled and secure. Medical alert alarms.
Communal lounge.
Laundry facility, lift, parking.
£65,000
01746 218249.

mobile homes

HIGHLEY SHROPSHIRE

Stately 40 x 20ft Twin, hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, two double bedrooms one en-suite, fitted wardrobes, bathroom, extras,gch, small garden, shed, residential park in peaceful location near village, no chain. £123,990.
01746 861199 or 07848 690406.

BRICKWORK REQUIRED by experienced bricklayer. Contact 07341 021774.

motor trade

FULLY SKILLED MECHANIC REQUIRED MOT tester preferred but not essential for busy Autocentre in the Blackheath area. Full driving licence required. For further details please contact Mr. F. Kelleher on 07831 832848

CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE

Real opportunities for you

jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

full time - general

Our services based in the West Midlands area have the following vacancies at our residential and supported living homes based in the Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Dudley and Coventry areas.

SENIOR SUPPORT:

The applicants will have 2 years minimum experience and NVQ Level 3 or be working towards this qualification £9 per hour, a potential salary pro rata of £18,460 (inclusive of sleeps)

SUPPORT WORKERS DAYS & NIGHTS:

We currently have vacancies for daytime support workers and night support workers, day support workers will also be required to cover 1 sleepover per week, no experience is necessary as an extensive training program will be provided Starting on £7.60 per hour moving to £8 per hour after training, potential annual salary pro rata £16,640 (inclusive of sleeps) "Bank Holiday Incentives"

Please call our main office on 01384 421460 for an application pack, this can be emailed or posted to you

We provide residential care, supported living and domiciliary care for people who present with challenging behaviour patterns

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST

St. Mary's Church in Kingswinford is seeking to appoint a Director of Music and take responsibility for music and the choir.

We are a friendly parish who have a sung parish eucharist and evensong weekly. It has a robed choir and there is a desire to explore other forms of making music. Remuneration negotiable - based on hours agreed and RSCM guidelines plus wedding fees (funerals if desired).

For more details contact:

The Vicar - Reverend Giles Kendall.

Email details to: rev.gileskingswinford@virginmedia.com

Car Parking Attendants

We are looking for staff to work on our busy car parking operation, both during the day (particularly in school holidays) and at our popular evening events, for which an enhanced rate of pay is offered.

Retail and Admissions

We are currently seeking experienced and reliable Retail and Admissions Assistants to work on fixed term contracts (end of March to the beginning of November).

To apply for these roles please go to www.bclm.com or alternatively call HR on 0121 521 5619

courses

Would You Like A Career With Flexible Hours, Local To Home? Claim Your FREE Driving Instructor Training Guide

www.4wheeltz.co.uk/career

8

Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

IDEAL FIRST CAR**FORD FIESTA ZETEC**

Climate, 5dr, 08, ocean blue, MoT December, 49,000 miles, very good condition.

£2,850

01902 847277

or

07548 511612.

DIESEL**FORD SMAX 2.0TDCI TITANIUM**

150PS, 2007, 12 months MoT, 135k, central locking, CD player, air con, abs, pas, alloy wheels, good condition.

£3,250 ono.

Telephone 07973 152480.

PRESTIGE**MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE**

54 reg, 74,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, keyless go, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys. Absolutely pristine. £9,999. 07836 204450 or 07545 601552.

SUPER BARGAIN**SEAT IBIZA 1.4SE**

10 reg., good condition, low mileage 43,000, FSH, 12 months MoT.

£4,300 ono

07916 313148.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN**

Red, automatic, 43,000 miles, 07 plate, Air con, electric windows, 3-dr, alloys, new tyres, full MoT. £2,500. 01902 791415.

**VOLKSWAGEN POLO**

57 plate, 113,000 miles, abs, electric windows, air bag, a/c, MoT, central locking, pas, new cambelt, full service, new exhaust, good condition.

£1,595 ono.

07463 621718.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**FIAT PUNTO**

2005, 91,000 miles, gold, electric mirrors, MoT, service history. Very clean condition. £795 ono. 01902 897680.

**FORD MONDEO EDGE**

07 Reg Low mileage 68,000 miles

MOT to Dec 2017

Genuine reason for sale

Hence £1,600 for a quick sale

Telephone Paul

07766 327017

Z293

FORD KA,

55 plate,

long MoT, silver

lady owner,

excellent condition,

drives superb,

first to see will buy,

£595 ono

07791 113080.

IDEAL FIRST CAR**FORD KA**

Blue, 3 door hatchback, 2003, 1.3cc, 60mpg, MoT July 2017, pas.

Very economical.

Very reliable, driven daily.

Very good condition.

Bargain £370 ono.

07954 091911.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY**HYUNDAI GETZ**

1.1 GSI 5dr

2006 registered 55 plate

In red with Service history

1 former lady keeper

12 months MoT

Fantastic condition.

Only £995.

07399 675758.

IDEAL FIRST CAR**NISSAN MICRA 1.0 SE**

48,500 miles.

MoT till September 2017,

silver, average condition.

£650.

07968 312921

PEUGEOT INDEPENDENCE 2000, 48,000 Miles, silver, long MoT, alloy wheels, new tyres and exhaust 2016 £300 ono 01902 685223

**RENAULT GRAND SCENIC**

2004, 63,000 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, sunroof, alloys, stereo, CD.

£1,150 ono.

07412 004439.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM
5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £299
(Manual & Automatic)
Free Unlimited Theory
07517 845477
www.driveallseasons.co.uk

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80, £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

motorbikes

MUST BE SEEN**SUZUKI GN125**

One owner, 7,000 miles, red and chrome, very good condition,

£1,100 ono.

Can deliver.

07850 233858.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.

NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available 0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

TRAILER 4ft x 3ft with jockey wheel, Noval Portaflo, good condition £130 ono. 07805 942308.

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
For Example: Citroen C1, C2, C3 Hyundai 110, Toyota Yaris Civic & Miras Ring for quotes on others!
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

spares/parts

THULE HIRE & SALES Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle carriers. Best Prices. Wolves Hire 01902 746723 WV6 0LE

vehicle recovery

DTB RECOVERY AND TRANSPORT

- Breakdowns
- Vehicle Movement
- Auction Collection
- Fast Response
- Competitive Rates

Call AJ on
07813 753554 (24/7)
0121 557 3360
abusiness1@hotmail.co.uk

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES

LICENCE UNDER SECTION 17

Notice is hereby given that on the 28th March 2017 Asda Stores Limited applied to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for a Premises Licence in respect of premises Asda, High Holborn Road, Sedgley, Dudley DY3 1SS. The proposed licensable activities are: 1. The supply of alcohol on Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 00.00 to 24.00, 2. To permit late night refreshment on Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 23.00 and 05.00. Any representations by a responsible authority or any other person regarding this application must be received in writing by: Strategic Director Place, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hunt Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill DY5 1UF no later than the 25th April 2017 stating the grounds for representations. The register of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and the record of the application may be inspected at the above address between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday except public holidays. An on-line summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk it is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

01902 317878
Classified Ads

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

IN BANKRUPTCY DUDLEY COUNTY COURT

NO 53 of 2005 RE: PETER WILLIAM BROOKS
Arcade Manager, who at the date of the bankruptcy order 07/03/2005 resided at 6 Central Avenue, Rowley Regis, West Midlands B65 8BA and lately residing at 3 Ryeburn Close, Kessingland, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7JH.

D.O.B: 09 February 1945

NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the addresses listed. I intend to pay within four months from 27th April 2017 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 62 p/c.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 27th April 2017 (being last day for proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency), select "Forms" and then form 6.37. Alternatively, you can contact my office at LTADT, PO Box 490, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 1VR telephone 01473 383535 to supply a form.

Mr D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

GENTLEMAN, 60
Slightly disabled, house and car owner, also a singer, seeks a lady, 40-70 years of age, for friendship.
Photo appreciated and returned.
Please write to: Box Number P20749, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Albion's Darren "Big Dave" Moore chatting with fans at half-time



The Mayor of Dudley, Mohammed Hanif, showed his support

Victory in bag for Albion but hospice the winner

A CHARITY football match between Stourbridge Old Boys & West Bromwich Albion Legends has raised more than £20,000 for the Mary Stevens Hospice, which provides 24-hour care for families battling the impact of life-limiting illnesses.

The game was played at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial Athletic Ground, at Amblecote, in front of a capacity crowd as the teams competed for the Jane Webb Memorial Trophy, named in remembrance of the local woman who provides the motivation for the game each year.

The day also included a huge family fun day, a sporting auction, and the opportunity for local children to have an once-in-a-lifetime matchday experience, as mascots, ball-children or flag-bearers.

Crowds were also treated to a mascot assault course sponsored by Midcalf Nicholls, with characters from the likes of West Bromwich Albion's Baggie Bird and Wolverhampton Wanderers' Wolfe joining those from Toys 'R' Us, The Tenth Lock and Mommy's Mascots in a chaotic obstacle course, which saw Baggie Bird steal an unlikely, late victory.

Amazed

After raising £15,000 in its debut year in 2016, event co-founders Matt Webb and Mark Naylor had hoped they would beat last year's sum but confessed that they found themselves "absolutely amazed" by the support the day received this year from supporters, players and volunteers.

In total, more than 40 players took part in the day, including 15 former-pros such as former Baggies skipper Darren "Big Dave" Moore, Richard Sneekes, Bob Taylor, Nigel Quashie, Geoff Horsfield and Des Lyttle.

Moore has now captained the Albion side for two years in a row, and delighted fans by playing in goal for 15 minutes at the end of the second half, before running the length of the pitch to take and score a penalty.

Fans witnessed 10 goals on the day with Albion

SPORTING FEATURE

By Dan Malin

A lot of the lads have already signed up to be there next year, so we're confident of retaining our title and can't wait to do it all again!

running out 6-4 winners in a hotly-contested match under the sweltering April sun, with fans taking to Facebook and Twitter afterwards to comment how much they'd enjoyed the day.

Charity, of course, was the big winner.

The Mayor of Dudley, Mohammed Hanif, was also on hand to meet the children involved in the day and to chat to players before kick-off, alongside the Hospice CEO, captain Stevan Jackson.

Matt Webb, Stourbridge Legends captain and event co-founder said: "It really is just still sinking in.

"When you look around, and all you can see is just thousands of families enjoying the day it brings it all home. Honestly, there's no feeling like it."

He added: "I can't tell everyone involved how grateful I am for making the day possible, and thank you so much to the thousands of people who came along and supported the match, I hope they all enjoyed it and we can't wait to go again. We've got a trophy to win back!"

Mark Naylor, West Bromwich Albion Legends manager and event co-founder said: "I don't think I've ever experienced anything like that.

"To have such overwhelming support from the local community, the clubs, the charities and everyone else involved was absolutely incredible and the end result of all of that hard work was a day that we'll never forget.

"A lot of the lads have already signed up to be there next year, so we're confident of retaining our title and

can't wait to do it all again!" Amanda Bowen, deputy fundraising and lottery manager said: "Matt and Mark simply can't be praised highly enough for what they've done.

"It's not just the fact that they've paid for so many families to receive our care when they need it most, it's the day they create for the community.

"They bring people together to simply enjoy being together as a family and watch absolute superstars roll back the years.

"The work that has gone into this event has been absolutely huge, and to see it all come together in the way it did was just so special."

She added: "So we'd like to say thank you to the supporters who turned up in their thousands, the staff who have worked so hard, West Bromwich Albion and Stourbridge for being so, so supportive of the event and, maybe most importantly, Jane Webb for raising such an incredibly kind-hearted man. She also took care of the weather, which was more than we could ever have asked."

Memorabilia

After the game, a sporting auction and post-match party took place in the Stourbridge FC club house, with signed and match-worn memorabilia donated by a plethora of first-team West Bromwich Albion stars including Ben Foster, Gareth McAuley, James Morrison, Chris Brunt and the recently-departed Jonas Olsson.

In the midst of everything going on, on the day, the thousands in attendance also perfectly observed a minute's silence before kick-off, to pay their respects to the Wilkinson family whose devastating loss has shocked the town this week.

All involved in the organisation of this event would like those affected to know that their hearts and thoughts are with them at "this impossibly difficult time".

To find out more about the work of the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk

● Images and videos from the day are available to view on the hospice Facebook page: www.facebook.com/marystevenshospice

Testing time for Josh as new season starts

TEENAGE race ace Josh Hiatt enjoyed his first proper run out on his new KTM bike during an official test day at Mallory Park.

The Cannock starlet, just 14, has made the step up from the Mextrakit series to compete in this year's KTM Cup, which supports the British Superbike series.

Hiatt will be one of the youngest riders on the grid this season, which began last weekend. He was working hard on his fitness behind the scenes ahead of the campaign getting under way.

Father Nigel said: "Josh met all the riders from the championship and he also got in lots of track time too, which was good. I think Josh will be one of the youngest riders on the grid because with the changes some of them will be 22-years-old this year."

Nigel said testing went well at Mallory Park, with the bike working and his son getting quicker every time he went out.

"It was encouraging because it's a much bigger bike than the one he's used to riding," he said. "But he's still enjoying it every time he goes out. He seems to find riding a two-stroke rather than a four-stroke.

"He's getting more and more confident on it."

Erin runs and swims to top five position

A DUDLEY schoolgirl has become one of the top five biathletes in the country. Erin Maher was one of three pupils from Maidensbridge Primary in Wall Heath who travelled to London's Crystal Palace National Sports Centre for the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships.

And after shattering a number of personal bests on the track and in the pool, the Year 6 pupil secured an impressive fifth place overall in the under-11s girls' category.

Erin, Amie Parker and Jamie Hiscox, who all attend the Beachcroft Road school, qualified for the championships through their performances in two qualifying events in October and November last year.

Modern Biathlon involves an 800m run followed by a 50m swim. Each performance is awarded points and then combined to produce final standings.

Amie's hopes of similar success were dashed by an ankle injury in the 800m, while Jamie finished 78th out of 165 in the under-11 boys' category.

Dean Nolan, deputy headteacher at Maidensbridge Primary, said: "We are very proud of what these children have achieved."

Erin is also the current Dudley Schools' cross-country champion.

Quiet Men Gethin has big shout at title

IT'S been a whirlwind three months for Walsall boxer Martin Gethin – from the clutches of retirement to competing for the WBO Inter-Continental title and winning an IBF International belt in-between.

'The Quiet Man' defeated Liam Richards in front of a few hundred fans at Walsall Town Hall back in November in what was supposed to be his farewell fight in his hometown.

Just days later he got the call to travel to London for the IBF International super lightweight title at Wembley Arena and overcame John Wayne Hibbert with fourth round knockout.

That victory has now landed Gethin a shot at the WBO Inter-Continental Super Lightweight title against the highly-rated 23-year-old Jack Catterall at the Manchester Arena on Saturday, a bout broadcast live on Boxnation and BT Sport.

Also on the card, Terry Flanagan defends his WBO lightweight title while super welterweight rivals, Liam Smith and Liam Williams, go toe-to-toe.

Double Olympic gold medalist Nicola Adams will make her pro bow, alongside fellow debutant and amateur stand-out Daniel Dubois.

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Marathon training is put to test

MONTHS of serious training was put to the test for Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as the first of many toed their spring marathon start line.

A group travelled north for the Manchester Marathon, rapidly becoming an attractive alternative to London with approximately 15,000 entries over one of the flattest courses in the country. It was a testing day with temperatures soaring.

Simon Blizzard was first home for the hoops in 626th place in 3.08.03, Mark Homer was 781st in a new PB of 3.11.50, Dave Norman went out hard but faded from his sub-three hour target finishing in 3.11.58, Steve Parr came home in 3.47.29 and Andy Weaver in 3.55.45. Stuart Perkins had a difficult day, almost dropping out at nine miles, but showed great strength of character to finish in 4.05.01 after being struck down with illness at the 11th hour.

Plenty of others put finishing touches to their marathon plans. Sam Hemming and Aimee Pugh travelled to the Olympic rowing venue at Eton Dorney for a 20-mile race, Hemming clocking 3.23 and Pugh coming home in 3.25. Helen Tromans took a similar journey south to compete in the Lee Valley Half Marathon, the 13.1-mile course taking place over one mile laps, finishing in 1.29.30 to take first in her age group and fourth lady and Roger Beddard took part in the Bournemouth Bay Half Marathon finishing in 243rd place in 1.45.38.

Kieran Pitt took part in the Wright Hassall Regency 10k at Leamington Spa finishing in 43.12 to take 159th place and John Andrews raced over 10k in the Lilleshall Monumental 10k finishing in 52.50 in 97th with Jacqui Elson-Whittaker taking 135th spot in 56.19. Alison Whitehouse and Gina Collins took part in the Silken Way Ultra over 30 miles, finishing in 6.55.06 and 6.55.11.

Hagley secure a tight win on the last ball of innings

Pedmore (115-5) beat Enville (110) by five runs

CAPTAIN Matt Porter opened for Pedmore with Dave Skelding, who was run out for 14. John Herdman and Porter moved the score along. The captain reached 25 in to time but the run rate slowed until his return to the crease.

Enville captain Jono Howells led the reply. Greg Tomkins, with Tom Bingham, also set about the bowling, smashing John Wenham for 39 off two overs.

At halfway Enville were well placed at 63 without loss. With the retirement of the main batsman the scoring slowed. They were in sight of the target with 12 required off the last over, but fell short. **Hagley 'B' (92-3) beat Oldswinford (90-5) by three wickets**

OLDSWINFORD got off to a cautious start. Captain Harry Stanier tried to get momentum going, while opener Dave Friel reached 25 off the last ball. They were helped by quite a few wides.

With Hagley needing four off the last over, Pat Addis bowled three dot balls, then a single and a wicket, leaving three off the last ball, which Hagley achieved.

Denny wary of Warburton in clash



Rowley Regis middleweight Tyler Denny

ROWLEY Regis fighter Tyler Denny is fully aware of the dangers his new opponent will present when they clash at the Venue in Dudley this weekend.

Denny steps through the ropes with replacement William Warburton on Saturday.

Denny is still protecting his unbeaten record and has set his sights on the vacant Midlands middleweight title, with Tom Stokes the name in the frame as a potential co-challenger. That leaves little room for error against Warburton, who claimed the scalp of his gym-mate Jason Welborn in May.

Warburton only has 23 victories from his 141

Boxing

pro bouts but is capable of springing a shock, although Denny is confident on taking that risk. Tickets, priced at £35 and £50 ringside with waitress service, are available via Denny on 07557 879 077. Alternatively, contact him on Facebook.

Flyweight Waleed Din has been added to the six-bout card. The 24-year-old from Sheffield, dubbed 'Dynamite,' has romped to eight victories from nine pro contests, with five TKOs, since turning pro in 2014. He was senior ABA champion in 2013.

DK ON MARCH UP TO FOURTH

Dudley Kingswinford 41 Stoke 25

DK moved up to fourth in Midlands 1 West after bouncing back from defeat at Newport.

The hosts were expecting a different challenge from Stoke and this was seen in the selection.

The forwards were much the same with two changes due to injury and unavailability, but the backs were rejigged, with Nic Adams recalled.

Connah Jones was put through to open the scoring, with Tommy Huggins adding the extras, but Stoke hit back with a penalty.

This led to a period of play when DK started to turn the possession and position screw. Pete Griffiths dived over for a try, which was unconverted.

The DK attacking philosophy on occasion leads to a risky pass, one such was intercepted by a Stoke player who sprinted the length of the pitch. Tommy Walker sprinted back from the other wing and caught the opposition player just before the line, but this valiant effort proved to be in vain as the Stoke player managed to stretch over the try line. It was converted for 12-10.

Defence

DK extended their lead going into the latter stages of the first half, with the pack taking a ball against the head, giving Griffiths the opportunity to pick the ball up against the retreating scrum. The ball slipped to Jones who then linked with Adams who joined in at pace and the Stoke defence was then unable to reset and Liam Marshall took full advantage to make the half time lead 17-10.

DK started the second half well and were building up the pressure, but that was released when Stoke kicked a penalty to make the score 17-13. Moments later DK got their bonus point try, a superb effort from Dave Pitt, which went unconverted.

Stef Shillingford was next on the scoresheet, this time Huggins added the extras. Another Pitt try followed, converted by Huggins and the final try went to Jones.

The final minutes went in Stoke's favour and they scored two tries to reduce the arrears to 41-25, and held up Adam Perks over their line depriving the second row of a well-deserved try.



Connah Jones dives over to score one of his two tries for DK

Pottinger: Heathens to face tougher tests

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger admits tougher tests are just around the corner after their massive opening night win over King's Lynn.

The Heathens return to Wolverhampton's Monmore Green for their next home match on Easter Monday, April 17, when they face Mildenhall. But they started the season by tearing

apart King's Lynn 61-29 at Birmingham last week with every rider in the points.

Said Pottinger: "It was a very pleasing, confidence boosting result for the lads. But we know there will be tougher tests ahead."

"King's Lynn weren't the strongest but you can only do the job on the night and it was

nice to see all the lads in the points."

Tom Perry opened his campaign with a maximum on his return to the Heathens side after two seasons with Birmingham.

Said Perry: "It's great to be back with Cradley and I obviously couldn't have asked for a better start."

Benbow on mark again to earn point

Hednesford Town 1 Stourbridge 1

A STUNNING Luke Benbow free-kick grabbed a late share of the spoils for Stourbridge at Hednesford Town on Monday night.

The visitors began the game on the front foot and almost took the lead in the fourth minute when Leon Broadhurst saw an effort from 25 yards deflected just past the post.

Kayleden Brown failed to beat Dan Crane in the Hednesford goal with two efforts, before Jordan Nadat had the Pitmen's first opportunity.

Glassboys threatened in the second half as Benbow hit the bar then Dan Preston hit the post, but the hosts went in front on 69 minutes as Nadat flicked on a cross and Danny Glover turned home.

Hednesford almost added a second in the 82nd minute as Nadat saw a shot well saved, but just two minutes later Benbow's wonderful free-kick earned a share of the spoils.

It was Glassboys second successive 1-1 draw following a stalemate at play-off rivals Buxton on Saturday.

Boss Gary Hackett praised felt slightly disappointed to not get all three points after Luke Benbow's 28th goal of the season had pulled his side level from an early deficit.

Hackett said: "This is a tough place to come, Buxton don't concede many goals and I felt after the first 15 or 20 minutes we were the better side and whilst I'm pleased with a point I thought if anyone was going to get all three it was us."

The Glassboys were badly depleted by injury and conceded through Nial Doran after just four minutes.

A minute before half-time Benbow turned and bent the ball in from 20 yards out, with it hitting underneath the crossbar before going in.

Platt's the way to give Veltz lifeline

Halesowen Town 1 Skelmersdale 0

HALESOWEN took a huge step towards safety with victory over relegated Skelmersdale in a must-win contest ahead of five consecutive away games.

Veltz had goalkeeper Dan Platt to thank for securing all three points after making a fine 58th minute penalty save.

The first half was interrupted when Veltz defender Jonathon Moran was stretched off with a knee injury and there was a further delay caused by a loose dog.

Bradley Lewis headed home a 55th minute winner. Three minutes later Platt saved Steven Gillespie's spot-kick.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford. Thursday, April 6, 2017

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*Dear Dave,
We would like to say how pleased we are with the new windows. Your fitters were very good in every way. They were professional and their work was of a high standard. We appreciated how they left everything clean and tidy. We are delighted with the excellent service and we will be in touch again shortly for another replacement window. We will happily recommend you.
Mr Challenor, Swan Bank, Penn*



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The Ultimate Showroom Experience

Q&A

This month we chat with Dave Walters, Managing Director and founder of the company which carries his initials DW Windows who are celebrating a second decade in Business in the Black Country this year.



Managing Director Dave Walters Showing clients the prestigious showroom based in Meadow Lane, Coseley

You have a reputation for being one of the Midlands leading specialists in windows, doors and conservatories; tell us more about the business.

DW Windows is a family run business which has grown steadily since being founded by myself and was later joined by my wife Claire who is the company secretary.

I have had more than 25 years experience in the window industry and worked fitting for other companies before making my mind up that I could provide a better service by doing it myself.

We have progressed from me working from home operating one van to employing more than thirty people across two sites with a turnover of £2.3 million.

We opened our first showroom in Brick Street, Sedgley in 2010 and in 2015 opened a much bigger 7,300 sq ft showroom in Meadow Lane, Coseley.

Your showrooms offer a wealth of choice. What can potential customers expect to see when they visit?

At Coseley, eight conservatories/ orangeries, two porches, 27 doors, three sliding patios, two bi-fold doors, sliding sash windows and various other window products are on display. The Window, Door

and Conservatory Centre also has more specialist products on show such as Residence 9 Windows, aluminium, flush sash and conservatory tiled roof options and at our Sedgley Branch there is a wide variety of products to choose from.

Well designed, properly fitted and stylish windows & doors or a conservatory will add value to your property and can be a major selling point, but why should potential customers choose D W Windows?

For us its just as important to make the customers feel valued and have an excellent experience with us from start to finish.

Most of D W Windows business comes from recommendations, which speaks for itself. Last year, we carried out more than 900 installations and always try to ensure that standards of installations are the highest and there is strong focus on professionalism, workmanship, customer service and after sales service.

We directly employ Five of our own fitting teams as opposed to using sub contractors and deposits are not compulsory

Whilst the core area of our business is in the Black Country and surrounding areas of Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham, it is

again testament to the quality of our work that we get people come as far as Yorkshire and Wales who have heard about our reputation.

What process would people follow once they have made up their minds to have work done?

Many people choose to book an appointment for one of our product advisors to visit their homes. Once the customer has decided on exactly what they want and place an order, one of the company's directly employed surveyors will attend to do a final measure up.

A date will be given for installation and the surveyor will draw up the job, process it and book the fitters in. For most jobs the aim is to complete the work within four weeks of an order, but for bigger projects like conservatories, dates are given for completion at each stage. The team of installers are trained in-house to industry standards, with the assistance of an external health and safety consultant.

If you were to sum up your company in a few words, what would they be?

That we are a business built on quality, affordability and reliability. And our aim is to be the best and most professional Window company around.



Sales Director Nick Dunkley with over 25 years in the industry giving sound advice.



Just one of our bifold range doors here at our DW Windows showroom



Inside one of our many orangeries and conservatories inside our DW Windows Showroom

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another replacement window. We will
happily recommend you.

”

Why choose DW Windows?

- We're a **family run** business
- Our quotes are **Free**
- **No pushy** salesmen
- Our fitters are **NOT**
sub contractors
- Our **quality** is second to
none
- Trading for **over 10 years**
- One of the **best showrooms**
in the Midlands

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